THE TIMES

Friday December 2 2022 | thetimes.co.uk | No 73956

£2.50 £2.00 to subscribers (based on 7 Day Print Pack)



My perfect friend Christine McVie

By Lesley-Ann Jones Times2



Germany crash out in Qatar

The Game

Halt strikes with festive truce, rail union urged

Ministers fear walkouts will cost economy £1.7bn

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Ministers have called on Britain's biggest rail union to be "altruistic" and suspend strike action over Christmas and new year amid warnings that it will cost the economy more than £1.7 billion.

The RMT union is planning eight days of strikes before Christmas and after the new year as part of the longest and most damaging period of industrial action since the 1980s.

The strikes will lead to widespread disruption on what are traditionally some of the busiest days for pubs, restaurants and shops.

Internal government estimates suggest that the rail industry alone will lose up to £260 million because of the strikes. The hospitality industry has warned that industrial action will cost it £1.5 billion in lost sales.

Huw Merriman, the rail minister, said yesterday that the strikes could "break" businesses that have already endured two years of disastrous festive periods because of the coronavirus pandemic. He urged the RMT to show the "spirit of compromise" and reach a deal so that businesses can recover "after the terrible time they have had".

He is due to meet Mick Lynch, the general secretary of the RMT, and rail employers today in an attempt to broker a compromise.

Britain is facing strike action every day in the run-up to Christmas, with rail workers, including Eurostar contractors, and nurses, ambulance staff, teachers and driving examiners preparing to take industrial action. More than 40,000 members of the RMT will hold four 48-hour strikes over the festive period in a long-running dispute over pay, job security and working conditions.

The railways will shut down on December 13, 14, 16 and 17, although passengers are being warned of significant disruption for the whole week. There will also be a ban on overtime from December 18 to January 2 and further walkouts on January 3, 4, 6 and 7, which will, in effect, close the railway for a further week.

Merriman told the Commons: "December for many companies is their time, it's make or break time, if they don't get a December in they may not see January.

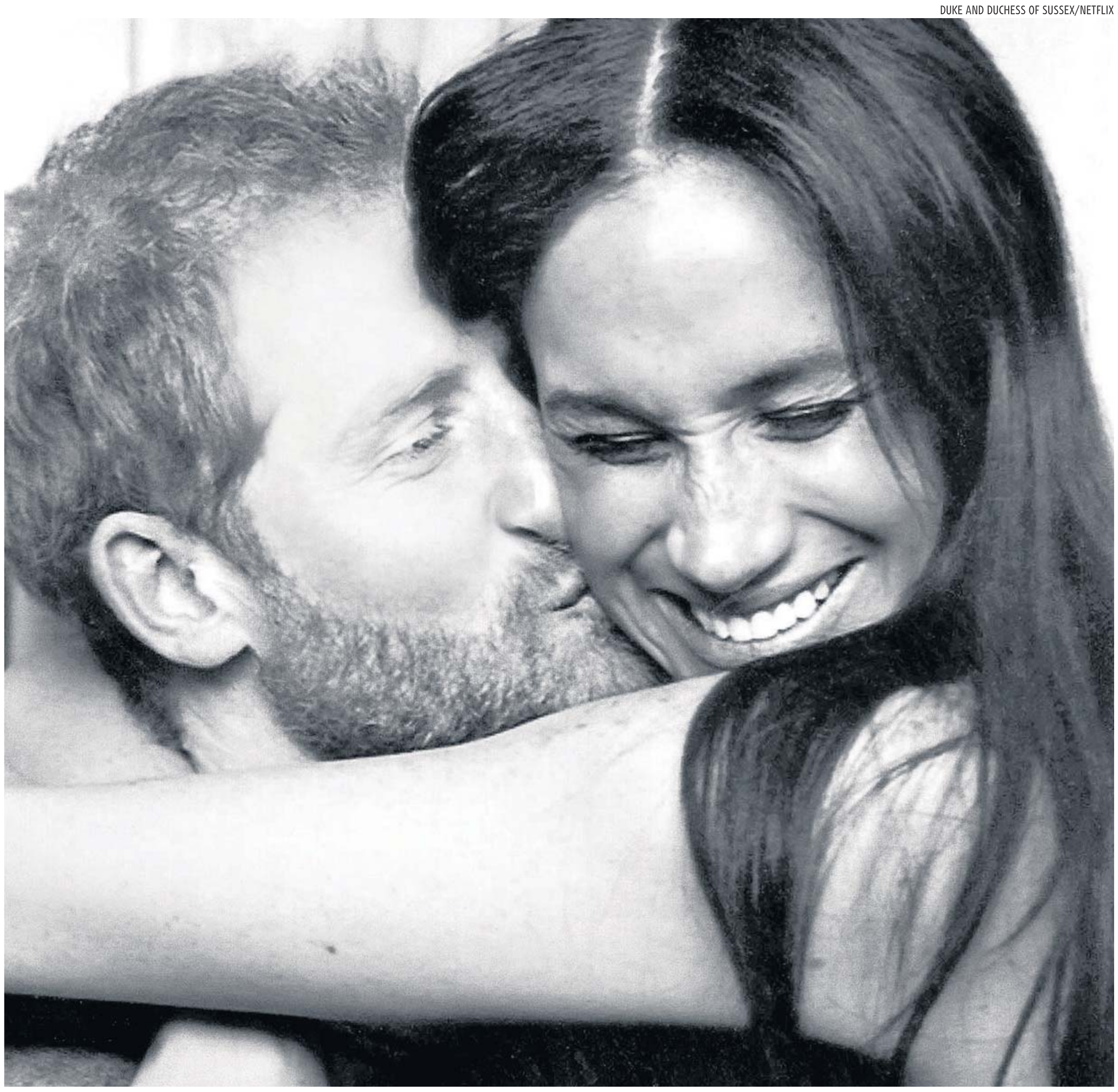
"We all have to think of this in an altruistic manner and see what more we can do. We will certainly do that on our side of the fence. We need the trade unions, who ultimately are the ones who can call the strike off or action it, we need them to take the strikes down."

A government source said: "This significant disruption to the public is not inevitable. With pubs, bars and restaurants warning it could lose them billions, we want to avoid a triple whammy on businesses and families after two Christmases of Covid upheaval. Pay offers must be fair to public sector workers and affordable for taxpayers."

The NHS is facing the prospect of co-ordinated strikes from several unions. Andy Prendergast, national secretary of the GMB union, said that walkouts were a "cry for help" as he urged ministers to listen to workers over pay. He told Sky News: "We will be talking to

Continued on page 2

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX/NETFLIX



A trailer for a Netflix series about the Sussexes was released on the second day of a US trip by the Prince and Princess of Wales

Sussexes 'have become the Kardashians'

Valentine Low Boston

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex deliberately torpedoed the Prince and Princess of Wales's US visit by letting Netflix release the first glimpse of their documentary series, royal insiders believe.

The trailer featuring Harry and Meghan — or the Kardashians, as they are now nicknamed by some sources close to William and Kate — led to the Waleses' trip being derailed for the second day running by external events.

On Wednesday the couple's trip, which Buckingham Palace regards as extremely sensitive, was overshadowed by the resignation of Lady Susan Hussey, a longstanding member of the royal household, after she made "unacceptable and deeply regrettable comments" to a black domestic abuse campaigner at a palace reception.

The trailer shared by Netflix on social media suggests the Sussexes will pull no punches in the series. Prince Harry says: "No one sees what's happening behind closed doors." In another clip Meghan says: "When the stakes were this high, doesn't it make more sense to hear our story from us?"

One well-informed source said of the timing: "It was definitely deliberate, without any question. But not at all unexpected."

The mood within the Waleses' camp was said to be one of resignation, even amusement, rather than anger. The release is being seen in the context of other Sussex developments around the Boston trip, including an award for the couple at a New York gala next week for challenging the "racism" of the royal family.

It is understood that sources close to the Sussexes say that the timing of the trailer was a decision entirely made by Netflix. The one-minute video shows many previously unseen images, including the Sussexes dancing together at their wedding. In one Harry is seen playing the guitar for Meghan.

The series of black and white images,

Continued on page 2

IN THE NEWS

Albania migrant deal

Albanians who abuse Britain's modern slavery laws to avoid deportation could be returned to Albania for their claims to be heard there under a new deal. **Page 2**

Firms ignore degrees

This year for the first time fewer than half of graduate employers asked recruits for a 2:1 degree as leading companies attempted to diversify their intake. **Page 10**

Russia peace call

Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, has suggested that Europe should return to its "peace order" with Russia after the war in Ukraine if Moscow renounces aggression. **Page 38**

Regulator's US move

Andrea Coscelli, the former head of the Competition and Markets Authority, is expected to take a job at a consultancy in the US, where he will advise on anti-trust issues. **Page 43**

Repairs to Cup pitch

Fifa is working hard to repair the pitch at the Al Bayt Stadium in Qatar before England's World Cup round-of-16 match against Senegal on Sunday. **Page 78**

48
9 771742 498554

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.COM

Today's highlights



7am **Sir John Curtice** on the Chester by-election result
11am How to be a former prime minister with the writers **Steve Richards** and **Quentin Letts** and the ex-aides **Jonathan Haslam** and **Jo Tanner**
1.45pm **Lady Carnarvon** on the centenary of her ancestors' discovery of Tutankhamun
5.15pm **Cathy Newman** chats to **Matt Brittin**, Google's president of Europe and Africa
7pm **Ed Vaizey**'s exclusive interview with **Michael Gove**, levelling up secretary, right

TIMES RADIO
DAB RADIO ● ONLINE ● SMART SPEAKER ● APP

TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



POTHOLE CASE
A woman is suing a council over an e-scooter injury
PAGE 11

SPORT



ENGLAND HIT OUT
Zac Crawley was one of four centurions against Pakistan
PAGE 78

TIMES2



MEET THE BEAT
The DJ Carl Cox has released an album to get you dancing
PAGE 9

COMMENT
The media establishment feels it's lost control of the narrative after Elon Musk's Twitter takeover
GERARD BAKER, PAGE 35

Welby's warning on Ukraine war
The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, spoke on a visit to Kyiv of a real fear that the war between Russia and Ukraine would, like the Israel-Palestine conflict, last for years. **Page 27**

Tribunal payout for gay workers
An employment tribunal awarded two gay restaurant workers a total of £120,000 after colleagues at the Piatto Italian restaurant in south London made homophobic comments. **Page 29**

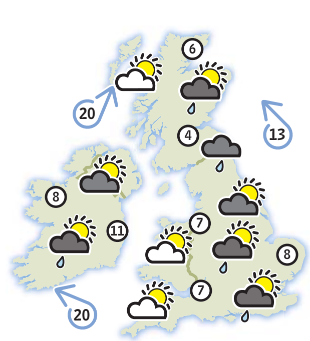
China to ease rules on Covid
Sun Chunlan, a Chinese vice-premier in charge of the country's Covid-19 controls, has signalled a change in its zero-tolerance strategy as cities relax some measures after public protests. **Page 38**

COMMENT 33 · LEADING ARTICLES 37 · WORLD 38
BUSINESS 43 · REGISTER 59 · COURT CIRCULAR 61
SPORT 69 · CROSSWORD 78 · TV & RADIO TIMES2

FOLLOW US
thetimes timesandsundaytimes thetimes

OFFER
Save more than 50% with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times
THETIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Patchy drizzle and showers across eastern Britain; largely dry in the west. **Full forecast, page 68**

© TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2022. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esky Drive, Carn Industial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274, e-mail copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

Albanian migrants could have slavery claims heard at home

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Albanians who abuse Britain's anti-slavery laws to avoid deportation could be returned and have their claims heard in their home country as part of a new deal between the two nations.

Illegal migrants from Albania could also be removed back to their home country before appeals against rejected asylum claims are heard.

The plans are expected to be part of a new fast-track returns agreement that moved a step closer last night after Rishi Sunak spoke to Edi Rama, the Albanian prime minister, yesterday.

The pair "agreed that more needed to be done to address illegal migration and tackle organised crime together", Downing Street said. There has been a sudden rise in Albanians entering the UK illegally via small boats this year. About a quarter of the 43,400 migrants who have crossed the Channel have been from the country.

Downing Street said that Sunak and Rama discussed "closing loopholes that are preventing the rapid return of failed asylum seekers". This was understood to include measures to stop Albanians escaping deportation by claiming to be a victim of modern slavery. A record 3,432 Albanians claimed to be victims in the first nine months of the year, making them the biggest nationality using the Modern Slavery Act, even ahead of Britons.

Three quarters of the Albanian claims were made by adults, according to Home Office statistics. This was contrary to other nationalities, which recorded a higher proportion of claims by children than adults.

Claiming to be a victim of modern slavery allows individuals to remain in the UK while Home Office officials assess their claim. However, the average time it takes to assess a claim is 561 days — over a year and a half — which enables them to stay, with free accommodation, a weekly allowance, legal aid and counselling while officials make a final decision based on the evidence that they provide and the Home Office can find itself.

Ministers have urged the Albanian government to agree a deal whereby they assess slavery claims lodged by their citizens in the UK given that the country is a signatory to the European Convention against Trafficking and has processes in place to consider and protect victims. Last month Suella Braverman, the home secretary, hinted at the plans as she accused Albanians of abusing the anti-slavery laws to avoid deportation.

"If those people are genuinely victims of modern slavery, they should be claiming that protection in Albania," she said.

The agreement with Albania would be in addition to Braverman's plans to reform the Modern Slavery Act to make it harder for foreign criminals and illegal migrants to use it to avoid deportation. Under those plans the home secretary wants to raise the evidence threshold for those claiming to be a victim, preventing people from making last-minute claims before deportation and barring those deemed to be a threat to public order from being able to lodge a claim.

Channel crossings continued this week, with 426 migrants arriving in eight boats on Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Defence, taking the total for this year to 43,934.

The Home Office confirmed that it was considering increasing the legal limit for detaining migrants at Manston in Kent from 24 hours to four days.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Meghan and Harry on Netflix

including one of the couple attending the Endeavour Fund Awards holding hands under an umbrella as rain poured down, are interspersed with images of other members of the royal family, including the Prince and Princess of Wales. Some observers have taken that as a hint that the Sussexes will not hold back in talking about their relationship with other royals.

The source said the Sussexes had been nicknamed the Kardashians — stars of a US reality television series — because "they want all the attention they can possibly get".

The source added: "They are two people who are accepting awards for themselves, talking about themselves, doing programmes about themselves. [William and Kate are] active members of the royal family who have a job to shine a spotlight on other people, give awards to other people. That's the contrast."

Although Netflix said that the programme would be "coming soon", the New York Post's Page Six celebrity news column has reported that this could be as soon as next Thursday. The streaming giant said that the series, by the Emmy award-winning director Liz Garbus, was "a never-before-seen look at one of the most-discussed couples in history".

It added: "Across six episodes, the series explores the clandestine days of their early courtship and the challenges that led to them feeling forced to step back from their full-time roles in the institution.

"With commentary from friends and family, most of whom have never spoken publicly before about what they witnessed, and historians who discuss the state of the British Commonwealth today and the royal family's relationship with the press, the series does more than illuminate one couple's love story, it paints a picture of our world and how we treat each other."

It was previously reported that the couple had tried to push back the release date into the new year after the death of Queen Elizabeth but Netflix was keen to remain with the initial agreed date.

Rishi Sunak said that racism must be confronted. "It wouldn't be right for me to comment on matters to do with the royal palace," he told Sky News. "They've acknowledged what has happened and made a full apology for it.

"I have experienced racism in my life. Some of the things I experienced as a kid I don't think would happen today. But the job is never done. That's why when we see it, we must confront it."

Warts-and-all love story, pages 6-7
Susan Hussey's remarks must be kept in perspective, leading article, page 37

Private school bills to soar under Labour

Andrew Vaux

Private schools could face a massive increase in business rates if Labour's plans to strip them of their charitable status go ahead.

Charitable private schools across England and Wales benefit by £144 million a year due to business rates relief. But critics believe that proposals announced by Labour could mean business rate rises totalling £150 million.

Labour says that it wants to use the money to fund better state education, but opponents have said it would burden the state with more costs. Sir John Redwood, the Tory grandee, said: "It's a further vengeful attack upon schools that pursue excellence and offer a lot of support to state schools in their locality."

Labour says the revenue raised could be used for 6,500 new teachers and to give every child access to a mental health counsellor and professional careers advice. But heads say it would affect the third of pupils who get fee assistance through bursaries.

Private schools should make a positive case, leading article, page 37

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Plea for truce over strikes

the other unions, we know that the nurses have got their first ballot in over 100 years, we know that our colleagues in Unite, in Unison are delivering ballots so we will be looking to make sure this has the maximum impact."

The GMB announced that 10,000 of its ambulance members had backed strike action, while Unite members, including paramedics and ambulance staff, had done the same. The Royal College of Nursing has two days of industrial action planned this month.

Rishi Sunak said that strike action was "deeply regrettable", adding: "I know things are difficult for people right now economically but when it comes to pay settlements they have to be fair, for workers [and] taxpayers. People need to keep talking and find a way through."

The RMT strike dates will disproportionately hit the hospitality sector on the busiest week of the year for office Christmas parties. UKHospitality, the industry trade body, has said that the strikes will cost £1.5 billion. The figure is comparable to the losses last year because of the Omicron coronavirus variant. Chris Whitty, England's most senior doctor, had urged people to "think carefully before you go" to celebrations.

"The RMT are trying to impose their own lockdown," a rail source said. "This is the first year since 2019 with no restrictions and they are hitting a week that is so vital to the hospitality sector."

Figures from the Office of Rail and Road regulator showed that taxpayers injected £13.3 billion to keep the railways running in the year to March, against £17.6 billion in the previous year.

Mark Harper, the transport secretary, said yesterday he was trying to encourage" a deal between the rail industry and the unions. He wrote to Lynch this week proposing "better information-sharing" between the government, unions and rail employers.

Rail bosses have said that unless the pre-Christmas strike action is called off by the start of next week it will be too late to run a full timetable. "We have a matter of days," a source said. "We can't be in a situation like last time with the strikes called off at the eleventh-hour preventing us running services."

Sunak aims to kill strikes with sweet reason, James Forsyth, page 33

MCCARTNEYS/SWNS; JEFF SPICER/GETTY IMAGES; ARBOR ARCHITECTS



Singer's Welsh retreat offers a 'womb room' of one's own



Charlotte Church, left, said she wanted to make Rhydoldog House a luxury getaway where guests could "awaken spiritually"



Emma Yeomans

The singer Charlotte Church has won a planning battle to open her green wellness retreat — complete with a "womb room" and vagina-shaped shower — at a £1.5 million mansion in a Welsh valley.

Church, 36, bought Rhydoldog House, which was once owned by the Laura Ashley family, while it was halfway through a renovation and has spent at least £500,000 on repairs and decoration so far.

Her proposal to turn it into a wellbeing retreat, where people could "connect with themselves and the natural world", was initially opposed by the council over fears about increased traffic on narrow country lanes.

The retreat, called The Dreaming, is available to book for next year after she went on to win approval.

According to planning documents, the property will be "a system of nonhierarchical participatory democracy", where guests can enjoy a "zero-emissions, off-grid location". They can take part in so-called sound ceremonies, forest bathing and other "spiritual healing" practices.

The retreat includes a shower that Church has compared to a "very large and unusual-shaped vagina", a room where the decor is designed to give visitors the feeling of being in the womb, and a "Mush room" with a fungi theme.

"It's super classy and filled with beautiful neutral colours," Church said of the Mush room. "It's quite masculine with strong angular lines, vintage wall lights, brown leather chairs and large cacti. There are lots of illustrations of mushrooms on the wall."

Church said on the venue's website: "By honouring and connecting with nature we can regain our wildness and awaken spiritually. By spending time in woodland spaces we lower our cortisol levels and blood pressure, improve our mental health and even reduce the chances of coronary heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

"By slowing down and allowing ourselves to witness the rhythms and complexity of the natural world we can arrive at a peace that has become virtually impossible to achieve with the incessant and often exhausting pace of modern life."

Church applied for planning permission to change the building from a residential dwelling to a retreat centre. Her proposals included turning part of a barn into an artist's studio and installing solar panels.

A planning statement submitted on her behalf by Llinos Hallett, of Asbri Planning, said: "The client brief calls for a wellbeing and healing retreat taking advantage of the site's remote rural location.

"The client aims to restore both the buildings and the sensitive landscape setting, enhancing biodiversity and retaining and celebrating the history of the house; particularly in reference to its past ownership by the Laura Ashley family. There is an ambition for the site to be carbon neutral and a number of renewable technologies will be installed on the site."

The highways department at Powys county council had said that there was an "unacceptable risk" for drivers on the narrow roads and warned of traffic mayhem. The objections were withdrawn after Church agreed to widening some roads and adding parking spaces.

Her renovation has been featured in the Discovery+ series *Charlotte Church's Dream Build*.

In honour of the house's history in the Ashley family, Church worked with the Laura Ashley team to design a wallpaper for one room.

Retreats start at £420 for a weekend, based on three sharing, and go up to £920 for a weekend in the Mystic suite. Church said she wanted the space to be "inclusive to all" so guests unable to afford those prices can apply for the venue's pay-what-you-can bursary.

Star service

- Hugh Jackman, the Wolverine actor, co-owns the plush Gwinganna Health Resort on Australia's Gold Coast.
- Andy Murray is celebrating his Scottish heritage with the exclusive Cromlix hotel in Dunblane.
- Donatella Versace's Palazzo on Australia's Gold Coast is famed for its opulence, while Liz Hurley has added luxury to city breaks with her boutique hotel in west London.
- The ex-Manchester United superstar Cristiano Ronaldo owns five hotels across three continents, having opened the Pestana CR7 Lifestyle hotel in Marrakech. He also has hotels in Lisbon, Madrid, New York and his home island, Madeira.
- Robert de Niro has the Greenwich Hotel in New York and luxury hotel brand Nobu Hospitality in London, New York, Marbella, Ibiza and Las Vegas.
- Richard Gere co-owns the luxury Bedford Post Inn in Bedford, New York.
- The British group The Libertines have the Albion Rooms, a seafront hotel in Margate, Kent, with its own recording studio.
- The ex-footballers Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville co-own Hotel Football, overlooking Old Trafford, their former ground.

Musk predicts 'smartwatch in brain'

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Elon Musk has said that his brain chip for controlling a computer with thoughts will be tested on humans within six months.

Musk's company Neuralink is developing the chip to help disabled patients communicate again. He also unveiled two other devices which he said would be implanted in the spinal cord and eyes which would help people with paralysis and blindness.

Other companies are developing similar devices and are further ahead in the process. Experts believe that Neuralink's version may have more computing power than rivals but will involve more invasive surgery.

"Even if someone has never had vision, ever, like they were born blind, we believe we can still restore vision," Musk said in a presentation.

More than a year ago Neuralink showed off a monkey with a brain chip that played the computer game *Pong* by thinking. This time two Neuralink monkeys moved computer cursors with their brains.

The Neuralink devices are the size of a coin with flexible "threads" that can be inserted into the brain. "It's like replacing a piece of your skull with a smartwatch, for lack of a better analogy," Musk said.

Musk, who owns controlling stakes in Twitter and Tesla, had previously predicted human trials to begin in 2020 and then 2022. However, Musk has expressed his frustration at the slow progress to Neuralink staff.

"We will all be dead before something useful happens," he told his team in a recent product review meeting, Bloomberg reported.

Musk faces an illiberal elite, Gerard Baker, page 35

Goon but not forgotten: Spike Milligan's archives revealed

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

"I have the body of an 18-year-old — I keep it in the fridge," Spike Milligan once joked, and it seems that the late comedian retained many other things.

Milligan's archive of scripts, film rolls, books, paintings, awards and even clothes has been discovered and accessed by film-makers for a documentary about the star of *The Goon Show*. According to the producers of *Spike Milligan: The Unseen Archive*, which will be broadcast on Sky Arts this month, it had been a "struggle" to decide what material to leave out. "During filming, one of the crew would notice something that Spike had written and we'd have to stop for five minutes because we'd all be laughing so much," Sebastian Barfield told The Guardian.

Jane Milligan said her father was an "absolute archivist on the quiet," adding: "We've probably got a few years' worth of listening to do."

The comedian died in 2002 aged 83.


CHANEL
CHANEL.COM


N°5
N°5
CHANEL
PARIS
PARFUM





Personal photos released by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex before their Netflix documentary chart the course of their relationship, from Harry wooing Meghan with his guitar playing, and an intimate photo booth snap, to dancing at their wedding reception, relaxing at Frogmore Cottage, and Meghan pregnant. The Prince and Princess of Wales also appeared in the trailer for the documentary





From Frogmore to life across the pond, a warts-and-all love story

Tom Ball

It is royalty like we have never seen before: cuddling, crying, larking around. As part of the trailer for their forthcoming Netflix documentary, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex released some personal photographs charting the course of their relationship, from their first holiday together to their estrangement from the royal family.

Away from the pomp of palaces and press junkets, the pictures show that behind closed doors their lives are often as mundane as everyone else's, and they are seen kissing in photo booths or out with their dogs.

EARLY RELATIONSHIP

Two of the images appear to have been taken in Botswana, where Harry invited Meghan for a three-week trip shortly after they first met in July 2016. They are shown both leaping into the air with hands aloft and grins on their faces. In a second photo, which also appears to have been taken in Botswana, they are sitting on top of a Jeep and smiling.

Harry later said that the pair had camped out beneath the stars together for several days. "We spent five days out there and were really by ourselves, which was crucial to me to make sure we really had a chance to get to know each other."

Other pictures from their early courtship show Harry wooing Meghan with his guitar playing. An approving Meghan gazes back at him holding her hand on his knee. In a blurred selfie the pair are cheek to cheek as they smile into the lens, while in another Harry can be seen standing behind Meghan holding two small flowers.

Meghan's two dogs, Bogart and Guy, make an appearance in photos thought to have been taken in Canada, where she was filming *Suits*. The couple are seen relaxing by the side of a lake, again with Harry's acoustic guitar in tow.

The presence of Bogart, a labrador-shepherd cross, dates the photo to before Meghan moved to the UK to be with Harry in 2017. Meghan was unable to take Bogart with her because the dog was too old to fly overseas.

In one of the most intimate photos, Harry and Meghan are pictured kissing in a photo booth. The triptych shows Harry wearing a hat and glasses, and Meghan caressing his face.

MARRIAGE

In the first photo of their wedding reception to be made public, Harry and Meghan are photographed dancing hand in hand. The reception took place at their home, Frogmore Cottage. Mike Tindall, Princess Anne's son-in-law, can be seen in the background mingling among the guests.

Photos also reveal married home life in Frogmore Cottage. Two pictures taken in the kitchen of the 19th-century house in Windsor show the pair relaxing after an engagement, with Harry looking louche in dishevelled ceremonial dress. Meghan sits opposite him on the kitchen counter.

Another picture shows them leaving Buckingham Palace through the garden entrance in March 2020, during what was their "farewell tour" from royal duties, after a private lunch.

MEGXIT

After stepping back from royal duties, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex settled in the US and in summer 2020 bought a mansion in Montecito, California. The following year, the couple gave an interview to Oprah Winfrey in which they discussed their courtship, mental health struggles and criticisms of the royal family.

In an undated image Meghan is seen with her head in her hands apparently crying while on the phone. In another, she appears to be brushing away a tear while being driven away from Harry.

The couple's two children, Archie and Lilibet, were born in 2019 and 2021 respectively. One photo shows Meghan wearing a trilby and sunglasses in the sunshine as she cradles her baby bump. It is not known during which of her pregnancies the image was taken, but she appears to have been at the beach in California near to where they now live.

Hilary Rose, Notebook, page 34

NETFLIX









Will viewers be moved to tears like the duchess?

Jack Blackburn

"No one sees what's happening behind closed doors," says the Duke of Sussex before the editor fades to a picture of the duchess, legs crossed, phone in one hand and her head in the other.

In the context of the previous images of the couple in love, one might assume that this is laughter. In the context of their whole story, one would more safely assume that this is tears.

At the end of the trailer for their Netflix documentary, there is also an image of an exasperated Prince Harry in the background of shot and Meghan wiping her eyes in the foreground.

Emotion is going to be a key player in this dramatic documentary, reprising a role it has played in the whole life of this royal couple. Since her arrival on the aristocratic scene, Meghan has brought a different approach to emotion.

One occasion where she seemed to be close to tears was in an interview with ITV at the end of the couple's Africa tour in 2019. Two years later, during the couple's interview with Oprah Winfrey, she wiped away a tear when asked about suicidal thoughts.

Most notably, yet least remarkably, the duchess visibly shed tears three months ago at the funeral of the late Queen. Many other royals did as well, although some speculated that the duchess's tears were for show. Her critical biographer Tom Bower accused her of "acting".



Meghan appeared to be crying in a scene briefly shown in the Netflix trailer

Shifts in emotional pitch are not new to the royals. The King's life has been charted by the royal family's changing relationship with feelings, from the stoicism of his mother to the tragedy of his first wife and the outpouring of grief at her death, which so rocked a monarchy unwilling to break with convention.

Now his son and daughter-in-law are bringing this relationship with feelings on to a new stage, into the glaring light of 220 million subscribers.

● Before making their multimillion-dollar deal with Netflix in 2020 the Duke and Duchess of Sussex had "shopped around" with its rivals in the entertainment world, the streaming company's founder said.

They were smart, Reed Hastings added. But Netflix had put together the "best complete package" he said. Not that he was going to declare its size.

It was reported in The New York Times that in discussions with Disney and Apple before signing with Netlflix, the duke and duchess had been seeking a deal worth about $100 million. They were also reported to have been looking for a deal with NBCUniversal.

After signing up with Netflix the couple said in 2020 that their "focus will be on creating content that informs but also gives hope".

However, the first animated series due from the couple through their company Archewell Productions was dropped by Netflix earlier this year.

Pearl — the working title of the animated series that was being co-produced by David Furnish, Sir Elton John's husband — was to have focused on the adventures of a 12-year-old girl inspired by some of history's most influential women.

Self-styled victims are pulling no punches

Valentine Low
Comment

There are very few words in the trailer for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's Netflix documentary series. But the message is still as plain as can be: Harry and Meghan are on the warpath.

From the somewhat saccharine images of the couple staring into each other's eyes to the portentous quotes from Prince Harry, it is clear that this is going to be a highly partisan bit of film-making. The heroes are Harry and Meghan, who come across as righteous, and wronged. And the villains are not hard to spot: the media, and the rest of the royal family.

Even the timing of the trailer's release is significant: it comes as the Prince and Princess of Wales are in the middle of a three-day visit to Boston. On Friday they will hold an awards ceremony in the city for William's Earthshot Prize. Harry and Meghan are all too aware that by releasing the trailer it will take up a sizeable chunk of media attention, attention that might otherwise have focused on William and Kate.

No doubt the Sussexes will blame Netflix for this. But we have been here before. When William and Kate were on tour in Pakistan in the autumn of 2019, the trailer for the ITV documentary about Harry and Meghan in Africa was released, showing Meghan holding back tears as she spoke about her mental state.

Even with relatively few words, this trailer packs a lot into its 60 seconds. Harry and Meghan are in love, for a start. Anyone looking at the image of Harry with a guitar as Meghan holds his hand will either think, "how lovely", or start to feel a bit queasy (they might also think: "Since when did Harry play the guitar?").

More importantly, Harry and Meghan are victims. Asked by an off-screen voice — presumably the director Liz Garbus — why they wanted to make this documentary, Harry replies: "No one sees what's happening behind closed doors."

One image shows Meghan sitting with her head in her hand as she clutches a phone. Is she crying? Or laughing? We know what we are meant to think. Later, Harry comes out with a line he has used many times before: "I had to do everything I could to protect my family."

Yes, but from whom? The media is the easy answer: the images of large crowds of photographers with their big lenses, and newspapers rolling off the presses makes that quite obvious. But other images — of a chilly looking William and Kate sitting in front of Harry and Meghan in Westminster Abbey at the 2019 Commonwealth Day service — offer a hint that various members of the royal family will not escape from the series unscathed.

For a couple who have guarded their privacy so jealously, they are now remarkably free with their at-home shots. One image shows them in the kitchen of Frogmore Cottage, once very much off-limits to outsiders. As one royal source said: "It's privacy on their terms, and attention on their terms."

Big smiles in Boston for a little guardsman

Valentine Low Boston

As guardsmen go, he perhaps fell a little short of the height requirements. And he was definitely a bit too far from the palace to be reporting for guard duty.

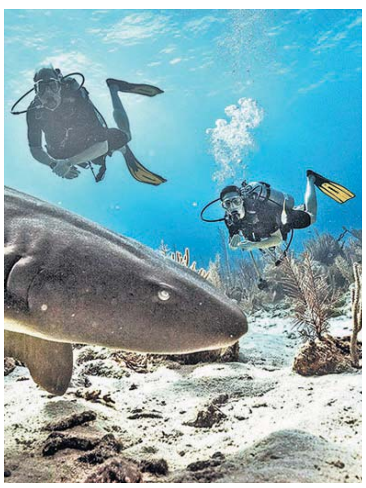
But other than that the small boy who greeted the Prince and Princess of Wales in Boston yesterday looked just the part when he appeared dressed as a Buckingham Palace guard, complete with red tunic and fake bearskin.

Henry Dynov-Teixeira, eight, from Somerville, Massachusetts, handed the princess a bunch of red roses and said that he was "thrilled" to meet the royals in person.

"I am going to scream and tell my best friend that I am now famous," Henry said.

His mother, Irina, said: "We bought it in London in the summer and he wore it for Halloween."

For the prince the first engagement of the day was an opportunity to remind everybody about his visit's green agenda after 24 hours of distractions in the form of the palace racism row and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's Netflix trailer.



The royal couple both planted coral when they visited Belize in March

As he visited a green tech hub near the city, he warned: "For all of us the time is ticking."

His words came as he chatted to last year's finalists of his Earthshot Prize and praised them for their ground-breaking work.

"As time goes by I keep saying, 'Come on, we've got to move faster and faster,'" he said.

Speaking about the prize, he said: "After last year, this year we've had a lot more interest in the last few weeks."

William added: "Well done, you guys. It's very good to hear these success stories. I know there is more to do."

The couple were reminded of their visit to the Caribbean in March, during which they planted coral with Coral Vita, one of last year's finalists, when they went scuba diving. During that visit the couple made a splash with their surprise video of scuba diving on the Belize Barrier Reef alongside a friendly nurse shark.

They revealed that during the tour they also went diving off the Bahamas. The prince said: "It was great fun. Are the corals we planted doing well?"

The princess added: "Even the ones I planted."

William was told during the visit to Greentown Labs that the move towards robotics was helping to boost coral reef rejuvenation as it is less cumbersome.

They were also told that increases in manufacturing costs were causing problems, but that a push toward local manufacturing was helping.

Later on a chilly Boston day the couple received a warm welcome when they undertook their first walkabout of the visit.

They embarked on an impromptu meet-and-greet session with hundreds of wellwishers outside their official engagement in Chelsea, a short drive from Boston, with one young woman collapsing in tears.

She did not want to give her name but repeatedly clasped Kate's hand and thanked her for everything she did.

The unscheduled moment occurred outside Roca, a non-profit organisation that focuses on high-risk young people between the ages of 16 and 24 at the centre of urban violence.

Many in the crowd had queued for hours in freezing cold and bitter winds just to catch a glimpse of the royal couple.

Ashley Langan, 20, who was holding a sign saying "Welcome to Boston Your Highness" was taken aback when both William and Kate stopped to admire it. She said: "It's a dream come true, really it is. If I had told myself ten years ago that this would happen I wouldn't have believed me. I love them as a couple and the work they do."

As the more enthusiastic members of the crowd shouted "William and Kate you're so beautiful", one woman told the princess that she loved her work highlighting the importance of the early years of childhood,adding: "As one mother to another, we can always learn from each other."

Katie Lummie spoke to the princess and said afterwards: "She is such an icon for women."

William led the charge, gallantly pointing people with flowers in his wife's direction and even gathering some up for her.

Roca is an organisation that works to reduce levels of trauma, violence and imprisonment, sustain employment and improve parenting. It also works closely with critical public systems such as police officers, judges, correction officers and child protection services to help to build policies and practices that produce better outcomes for young people who are the primary victims or drivers of violence.





Henry Dynov-Teixeira, eight, met the Prince and Princess of Wales on their visit



The prince and princess are both known to enjoy watching American basketball

Booing shows basketball is no slam dunk

Valentine Low

For the Prince and Princess of Wales, if a trip to America means anything, it means taking in a game of basketball.

The last time they were in the US, in 2014, they watched a match between the Brooklyn Nets and the Cleveland Cavaliers — and had a casual courtside conversation with the Nets' two most famous fans, Jay-Z and Beyoncé.

This time there was not the same star power. They appeared nonetheless enraptured, however, as they joined 20,000 fans to watch the Boston Celtics play Miami Heat.

The couple, who were there to promote William's Earthshot Prize awards, watched the game with the Celtics owners Wyc Grousbeck and Emilia Fazzalari, the governor-elect Maura Healey and Boston's mayor, Michelle Wu.

The prince and princess stood for the national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, which was performed by a semi-finalist of season ten of *The Voice*.

Charity boss in royal race row seeks assurance from Palace

Tom Ball

A black charity boss at the centre of a royal race row has said she will only accept the personal apology of the aide who asked her “where she was really from” once the Palace has given assurances that the same thing will never happen again.

It is understood that Buckingham Palace would like to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Ngozi Fulani, 61, and Lady Susan Hussey, 83, who on Wednesday resigned from her post as lady of the household for “deeply regrettable” comments made about Fulani’s background.

The Palace said that it had attempted to contact Fulani. As of yesterday afternoon however, Fulani said she had had no contact from the Palace.

“I’m not so up in arms that I refuse to speak to anybody,” Fulani said . “But I think we have to deal with the issue. To be honest, people can say sorry, but I just need to know that this is not going to happen to anybody else. So in order for that reassurance to happen, I would need to share the experience of what it felt like. And I’d like to know what would be put in place to ensure that this doesn’t happen to anybody else. Once that’s been done, we can have a conversation about speaking to the person involved.”



Lady Susan Hussey quit after asking Ngozi Fulani where she came from

Fulani, who is chief executive of Sistah Space, was attending a reception hosted by the Queen on Tuesday to mark the United Nations’ 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

She said Hussey, who is godmother to the Prince of Wales, and was lady-in-waiting to the late Queen, brushed her hair aside to read her name badge and began questioning her about “which part of Africa” she came from.

When Fulani told her she was from Hackney, east London, she says Hussey — who was made lady of the household by the King — replied: “No, but where do you really come from? Where do your people come from? When did you first come here?”

Asked whether she had wanted Hussey to resign, Fulani insisted that she had not intended for the aide to lose her job at the Palace, where she had been employed for over 60 years.

“She’s employed by Buckingham Palace and it’s their decision and her decision to make, one I had no part in,” she told the BBC. “I would have preferred it did not happen.”

However, she went on to say that she believed the “interrogation” was motivated by racism and was not excused by Hussey’s age. She added: “Are we saying that because of your age you can’t be racist or you can’t be inappropriate?”

Buckingham Palace acknowledged the “unacceptable and deeply regrettable comments” and said that they had “reached out to Ngozi Fulani”.

The incident has overshadowed the Prince and Princess of Wales’s visit to the United States to hand out awards for his Earthshot Prize in Boston.

In a letter to The Times today, William Shawcross, the official biographer of the Queen Mother, said that Hussey had devoted her life to the royal family and “never put a foot wrong”.

“I know she will be very distressed that she has upset the guest to whom she talked,” he wrote. “The attacks on her are totally unfair.”

Institutional racism, letters, page 36
Why Hussey had to go, leading article, page 37

Behind the story

Ngozi Fulani’s history with the royal family began 25 years ago when she met the King, then Prince Charles, at an event for the Prince’s Trust (Tom Ball writes).

She was running the Emashi dance ensemble, an African arts and culture organisation in Hackney, east London.

Photos from the royal visit in December 1997 show Charles and Fulani laughing while playing bongo drums. “I remember it very clearly, it was such a lovely experience,” Fulani, 61, who is a widow and grandmother, told The Times. “He sat down next to me and asked me to show him some rhythms on the drum, which I did. I had my daughter with me, she was 18 months at the time. He was very courteous and it was a lovely experience.”

The next time that Fulani and the royals would be connected the circumstances would be much different.

When the Duchess of Sussex told Oprah Winfrey last year that a member of the royal household had commented on the potential colour of her son Archie’s skin before he was born, Fulani accused the royals of domestic violence against Meghan.

She tweeted: “I can’t stay silent about this. I admire Meghan for speaking out. According to clear definition, it seems Meghan is a survivor of domestic violence from her in-laws.”

Growing up in Kilburn, northwest London, to parents who had come to Britain from Barbados as part of the Windrush generation, Fulani’s was the only black family on the street in a predominantly Irish area of the capital.

Racism was a part of her life from an early age, she said in an interview with Future Hackney.

When she was 11 a white teacher shooed her away because she was sitting “too close to her”, she said. Her father would take her to house parties because “black people were not allowed” in pubs.

At 18 she moved to Hackney and took a college course in community studies.

In 1982 she became involved with Emashi, a moment that she describes as pivotal because it “put me in touch with Africans from the continent”.

She set up Sistah Space, a charity supporting African and Caribbean-heritage victims of domestic violence, in the wake of the murder of Valerie Forde and her baby by an ex-partner in Hackney in 2014. An investigation later concluded that the victims were badly let down by police, with two detective sergeants found guilty of misconduct.

Fulani trained as an independent domestic violence advocate, founding Sistah Space in 2015 with Rosanna Lewis. It works to “ensure cultural factors are not only considered but understood” and that “cultural barriers and biases are removed”.



KIRSTY O’CONNOR/PA; BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS



to Boston. His mother said they had bought the costume on a visit to London

However, when it came for their turn to be introduced by the stadium announcer and shown on the big screen, the cheers that filled the arena were interspersed with small pockets of boos. Other fans could be heard loudly chanting “USA, USA”.

But more than anything people were just surprised to find themselves in the company of royals. “I had no idea they were here,” said Bradley, a young man in a Celtics hat and top. “But it’s quite cool. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime thing.”

A racism controversy threatened to overshadow the visit after William’s godmother resigned from the royal household for asking a charity’s black chief executive where she “really came from”.

A spokesman for the prince said that “racism has no place in our society”.

The Boston Celtics’ name was inspired by the Original Celtics, a well-known basketball team that had been created by Irish immigrants in New York early in the 20th century, before folding in 1930.

The team play in green, a happy synergy that allowed the stadium to light up the advertising boards in the colour, promoting the Earthshot Prize and keeping Celtics fans happy. An Earthshot promotional video was played before the game, but such was the noise that it was hard to hear what was being said.

After the second quarter of the game William and Kate watched as the Celtics honoured their longstanding tradition of recognising a “Hero Among Us”, heralding individuals who are working to positively affect the community.

Ollie Perrault, a 15-year-old climate activist from Easthampton, Massachusetts, got to meet the royal couple after being cheered by the local crowd for her work as a leading member of the Youth Climate Leadership Programme since she was 11.

She is now the founder and director of Youth Climate Action Now, which is committed to fighting for environmental justice, advocating for an intersectional system change, and working to get more young people involved in direct climate action.

Royal aides suggested that the couple would depart after the third quarter of the game but they decided to stay until the end, shaking hands with fans as they left.

● Prince Andrew was spotted in his Range Rover arriving at Buckingham Palace for a meeting yesterday. The Duke of York, 62, was driven in by his bodyguards although it is not known why he was there. Last week it was reported that the duke is expected to lose his police protection three years after being stripped of royal duties. Andrew is planning to complain to ministers and Scotland Yard about the loss of his security, The Sun on Sunday reported.

University chief: Hussey asked me too

Ali Mitib

A university chancellor has said he was also questioned about his background by Lady Susan Hussey at the event in which she asked a black charity executive “where she really came from”.

Nazir Afzal, 60, the chancellor of the University of Manchester, said Hussey asked him about his heritage “and seemed to accept my answer — Manchester currently”, he said.

He added: “Racism is never far away, though.”

Afzal, who as the former chief crown prosecutor for the northwest of England tackled cases involving violence against women and child sexual exploitation, was among 300 guests at Buckingham Palace for an event on violence against women and young girls hosted by the Queen.

The guests also included Olena Zelenska, the wife of the Ukrainian president, Queen Rania of Jordan and Queen Mathilde of Belgium.

An independent inquiry conducted by Afzal last month found that women, black and Muslim firefighters have been subjected to racist and sexist abuse at London Fire Brigade, the country’s largest fire service.

The 88-page report, commissioned after the death of Jaden Francois-Esprit, 21, a trainee firefighter in Wembley, northwest London, was based on more than 100 written submissions and surveys completed by 1,672 employees.

The report found that the brigade was institutionally misogynistic and racist and detailed a “toxic culture” in which a black employee found a noose above his locker and a Muslim firefighter had a terrorism hotline sticker placed near his belongings.

Afzal said he had since received messages from women and ethnic minority staff at the BBC, NHS and police forces asking him to conduct an inquiry into their workplaces too.

In September Afzal published *The Race to the Top: Structural racism and how to fight it*, exploring different manifestations of racism in British society.

Harsh lesson as ministers fail to recruit enough trainee teachers

Nicola Woolcock

The number of trainee teachers has plummeted to "catastrophic" levels, particularly in physics, figures show.

The government has missed its own target for recruiting school teachers by almost a third, leading critics to blame real-terms pay cuts in education.

Bursaries in some key areas were reduced when application numbers rose temporarily during the pandemic. Only 17 per cent of the targeted number of trainee physics teachers were recruited in this academic year, according to the figures published yesterday by the Department for Education (DfE).

There were 29 per cent fewer new entrants to postgraduate initial teacher training courses than needed this year. The number recruited across all subjects and stages of school was 71 per cent of the target, down from 97 per cent last year — a fall from about 30,000 new entrants to 23,000.

It was described as a "disaster" for children by the National Education Union and "catastrophic" by the Association of School and College Leaders.

The figures show that only 59 per cent of the overall target for secondary subject trainees was reached this year, down from 79 per cent in 2021-22.

Another target relates to teachers of subjects within the English baccalaureate measure — English, maths, science, foreign languages and history or geography — and only 62 per cent of that was met. For primary teachers, 93 per cent of the target was reached. Recruitment was 90 per cent of the target in maths, 86 per cent in chemistry, 85 per cent in biology, 84 per cent in English, 34 per cent in foreign languages and 30 per cent in computing — all lower than last year.

The DfE said the failures were because of a drop in the number of entrants and an increase in the overall target, from 31,030 last year to 32,600 in 2022-23. Education experts blamed a real-terms pay cut, excessive workloads and underspending in education for making the profession unappealing.

Geoff Barton, of the Association of School and College Leaders, said: "The government has consistently missed its own targets for recruitment over the course of the past decade but this is a new low." Dr Mary Bousted, of the National Education Union, blamed the government for an "abject failure".

The DfE said new bursaries had been introduced and starting salaries would be raised next year.

Free speech law eased after universities fear frivolous legal actions

Nicola Woolcock

Peers and university leaders have succeeded in watering down the free speech bill after the government tabled amendments.

The Times reported last month that the head of the Russell Group of universities and several peers were worried that the bill would lead to vexatious and frivolous legal actions. It would allow complainants who believed their free speech rights had been breached to seek compensation in the courts from universities or student unions.

On Wednesday, however, the government wrote to peers to say it had amended the bill so that a civil claim could happen only as a last resort and after complaints had been pursued through the relevant university and the regulator, according to reports. Claimants would also have to prove they had suffered loss, The Daily Telegraph reported.

Jo Phoenix, a professor of criminology who quit the Open University after attacks over her views on gender, called the amendments "horrendous".

She said: "This process is an excellent way that university managers can kick the problem into the long grass."

The bill ran into difficulties last month during a debate in the Lords. There was criticism of the new statutory tort that would allow individuals to bring proceedings against a higher education provider or students' union for not complying with their freedom of speech duties. In response, the government said it would "consider carefully" how best to address the concerns.

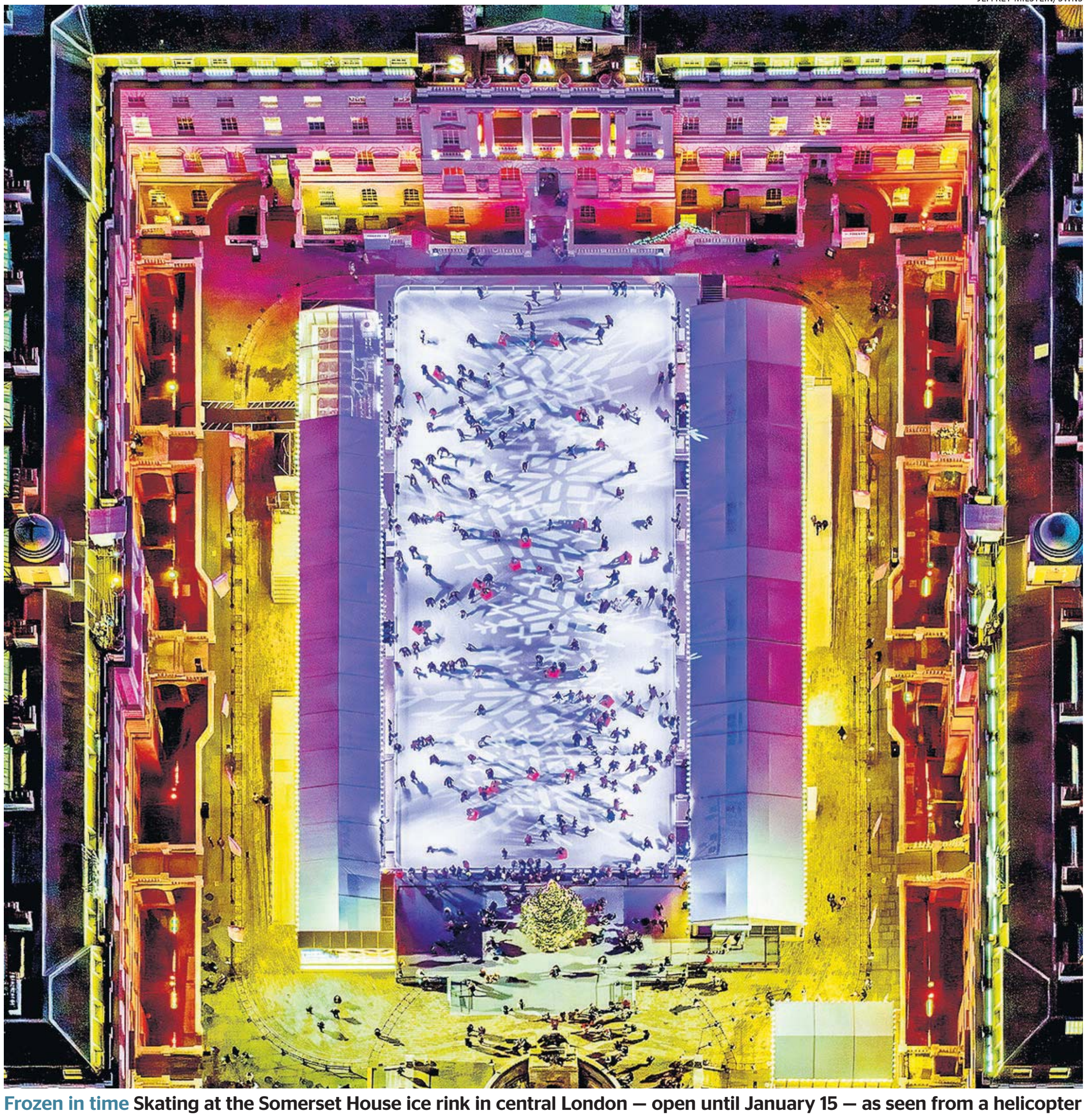
Lord Grabiner, former master of Clare College, Cambridge, and president of the University of Law, said at the time: "There will inevitably be mischief-makers who will wish to use the court process publicly to embarrass universities, colleges and student unions to advance their own ideology or view of the world. The potential for this sort of behaviour, particularly in this context, is boundless, I am afraid."

Lord Macdonald of River Glaven said: "Universities, unions and university societies will fear the heavy hand of litigation and the effect will be a chilling one. Universities will be less likely to host controversial, vibrant events if a tort of this sort is pressed by this parliament, than they would be if no such action is taken."

In response, the government had said it would "consider carefully" how best to address the concerns raised. According to the report, Baroness Barran, a minister at the Department for Education, wrote to peers on Wednesday saying that the amendments to statutory tort — which gives complainants new powers to sue universities — had been tabled after the government had "listened carefully" to arguments in the Lords.

The Department for Education denied the bill was being watered down, saying the tort was a last resort. The bill will allow the creation of a "director for freedom of speech and academic freedom" in the Office for Students.

JEFFREY MILSTEIN/SWNS



Frozen in time Skating at the Somerset House ice rink in central London — open until January 15 — as seen from a helicopter

Fewer graduate employers demand a 2:1

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Fewer than half of graduate employers asked recruits for a 2:1 degree this year, for the first time.

Leading companies are keen to diversify their intake and some are running applications that are "blind" to the applicant's name, university or even degree classification.

Most graduates now achieve a 2:1 or a first, meaning it is harder for employers to use this as a way of choosing candidates. A report published yesterday by the Institute of Student Employers (ISE) — formerly the Association of Graduate Recruiters — found that the number of recruiters stipulating a minimum 2:1 degree had fallen to 48 per cent, down from 57 per cent in 2021.

Few employers want a specific degree subject or for candidates to have a postgraduate qualification. Since 2013 there has been an upward trend in companies requiring "no minimum requirements", and the figure now stands at 26 per cent.

PwC, the consultancy firm, said this year that it was removing the 2:1 criteria for graduate roles to ensure it does not miss out on talent. It added: "More students will be able to access PwC's programmes as the firm assesses potential instead of academic attainment."

The survey of 168 companies, taking on 32,000 employees, found recruitment was up 19 per cent on last year and the average graduate salary was almost £31,000, compared with nearly £20,000 for school and college leavers. Graduate salaries had not kept pace with inflation, rising by 1.37 per cent from 2021, resulting in a real wage decrease.

More than half of employers said the looming recession meant they would probably recruit less, and that Brexit continued to have an impact. Some companies were stymied by university career fairs, with the University of London banning oil and gas firms from its events because of climate change.

Firms received on average 36 applications per vacancy, a significant decrease from 91 last year, which suggests graduates are being more selective.

Digital and IT was the most competitive sector, with 90 applications per vacancy on average, while energy and engineering and the legal sector were the least competitive, with an average of 47 applications per vacancy.

Forty-seven per cent of the graduate cohort was female, even though 57 per cent of university students are women, and the report said this highlighted an under-representation of women hired on graduate schemes.

Stephen Isherwood, the chief executive of the ISE, said: "Many graduate recruiters have questioned the use of degree results as selection criteria and this has been in decline over a number of years now. This highlights a broader trend in the labour market, whereby employers are placing more trust in sophisticated selection tools. They want to broaden their potential talent pool. The shift also reflects the lower application to vacancy ratio in 2022, and the increased difficulty with filling vacancies this year."

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute, said: "Clearly, when the overwhelming majority of undergraduates emerge with what used to be called a 'good degree', then their grades become a less useful differentiator. It is hard for employers to know if a low 2:1 from an institution that gives out lots of high marks is really better than a high 2:2 from another institution that has seen less grade inflation.

"The fact that employers are taking a wider range of factors into account is actually a good thing. Someone's degree qualification is not the only indicator of whether they will do a good job. Some people with stellar grades won't be right for some jobs and some people with less impressive results could still be great at some jobs."

Analysis

How are employers recruiting now? Companies often use aptitude and behaviour tests (Nicola Woolcock writes). These can include games that measure skills and abilities. Some ask candidates to send video interviews rather than covering letters. Others require applicants to sit online assessments that set challenges based on fictional scenarios of small businesses.

The ISE report said the most popular recruitment tools were situational judgment tests, followed by numerical reasoning, critical reasoning, candidate strengths, verbal reasoning and motivation questionnaires.

Lawyer is jailed over £10m castle sale fraud

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A judge has told a solicitor at the heart of a multimillion-pound fraud over the sale of a castle that his "heart must have jumped" when prosecutors refused to take the case to court.

Stephen Jones, a London lawyer for more than 35 years, was jailed for 12 years this week after admitting two charges of fraud in a deal over a Scottish castle that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed in after their wedding.

Jones, 63, was initially jailed for 14 months in 2019 when he was found in contempt of court over failing to explain what had happened to millions that had gone missing in the deal.

The High Court judge referred the case to the police and the Crown Prosecution Service for potential charges against the solicitor. But investigators and prosecutors decided not to bring the case to court. As a result, an American developer that had planned to buy Taymouth Castle — a 16th-century structure in the Highlands — had to initiate a private prosecution. Lawyers for the property company said it had spent more than £4 million on the case.

Addressing Jones after he had pleaded guilty at Southwark crown court, the judge, Martin Griffith, said: "You, being a solicitor, received and stole £10 million in funds and a High Court judge expressed a few comments for the CPS to consider this matter. How your heart must have leapt when you heard the CPS declined." Then "the Americans stepped in", the judge added.

Jones, who had worked for more than two decades as a tax specialist at the London law firm Jirehouse, was found guilty of two charges of fraud relating to separate sums — one for $14 million and the second for $2 million — that were transferred in 2018 to Jirehouse. The law firm was shut by regulators in 2019.

In his sentencing remarks, the judge described Jones's conduct as "rank dishonesty" that damaged the personal relationships of the victims. He also criticised the police and CPS, saying that Jones's conduct in the deal was "obviously prosecutable" and yet investigators and prosecutors left it for a private company to bring the case to court.

In the hearing, the court was told that in 2018, the US Discovery Land Company (DLC) instructed Jones to represent it in the purchase of Taymouth.

The fraud involved funds intended for that deal that DLC transferred to the lawyer in two tranches. A legal team acting for the company in the private prosecution told the court that Jones failed to use the money to buy the castle for his clients. Instead, the solicitor diverted the funds and used "stalling tactics" while falsely claiming that compliance and money laundering issues had arisen that meant the money could not be used to buy the castle.

Jones was said to have advised the company that it needed to transfer a separate tranche of $9.3 million so he could avoid compliance problems and complete the deal within seven days. He said that he would return the company's excess funds two days later. Discovery eventually purchased the castle in 2018. In effect, said the prosecuting team, "Jones caused DLC to pay for the castle twice".

The hearing was told that lawyers for the company repeatedly requested over three months that Jones produce the excess funds. But the lawyer was said to have invented bogus compliance issues that prevented this.

Jones was said to have even reported the property company to the National Crime Agency as a smokescreen to prevent it from finding that the funds had disappeared. Jones never returned the funds and has failed to reveal where the cash was ultimately diverted.

Stephen Kay KC, who represented the property company in the private prosecution, said after Jones had been sentenced that the American business had spent more than four years trying to trace and reclaim the stolen funds.

Officials at the Solicitors Regulation Authority said that disciplinary proceedings against Jones had been adjourned in October pending trial but were expected to restart this month.

Behind the story

Fears have grown over the past few years that budget cuts to police and prosecutors have effectively resulted in fraud prosecutions being privatised (Jonathan Ames writes).

Private prosecutions can be brought by organisations, businesses or individuals in cases where the standard route of a police referral to the Crown Prosecution Service has not taken place or the prosecutors have decided not to proceed.

The CPS applies a two-pronged test to cases: there must be enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction; and, if so, it must be in the public interest to proceed.

In 2019 The Times reported that a judge commented that "public authorities sometimes may lack the resources and/or inclination to commence a public prosecution".

As a result, a mini-growth area of legal practice has sprouted, involving lawyers who specialise in bringing private prosecutions in fraud cases. One legal practice in London estimated it is prosecuting up to 120 cases annually.

The CPS has the power to take over private prosecutions, and continue or discontinue them.

Some lawyers and judges are concerned that the process followed in some private prosecutions lacks the independence and professional detachment of state supervision.

GIOVANNA DRAGO/INSTAGRAM



Giovanna Drago claims she broke her knee when a pothole made her fall off her new e-scooter. She says she did not know it was illegal to ride on the road

E-scooter rider sues council over pothole fall

A woman injured while riding an illegal e-scooter is suing a London council for £30,000 in what is thought to be a landmark claim.

Giovanna Drago has told a court that she broke her left knee when her new £558 Xiaomi Mi Pro 2 hit a pothole in Barnet in north London two years ago.

It took 20 months to recover fully from her injuries, she said.

In what is believed to be the first claim of its kind to go before a British judge, Drago, 22, told a hearing at central London county court that she had no chance to avoid the pothole because it was dusk and difficult to see. She is now suing Barnet borough council for allegedly failing to maintain the road, claiming £30,000 compensation.

Drago maintains that she is entitled to damages despite admitting that it was illegal to ride the e-scooter on the road.

Lawyers for the council have argued that Drago's claim should be rejected because she had caused her own injury by riding an illegal e-scooter. Only those hired from an authorised rental scheme are allowed on public roads.

Legal experts have highlighted one other case involving an illegal e-scooter filed in a UK court but Drago's is the first to go before a judge and the ruling has the potential to influence others.

The court heard that Drago was unaware that she was breaking the law when she took the e-scooter on the road. She had ridden it only twice before her crash.

She was wearing a safety helmet but no knee pads when she went over the handlebars. However, Drago told the judge, Jan Luba KC, that she had been travelling at a moderate speed.

"Because it was dark I couldn't see the hole," Drago told the judge.

She said she had to wear a brace and use crutches for six weeks and was left with a scar almost five inches long and "clicking, swelling and muscle-wasting" around the knee.

Lawyers for the council denied all blame for Drago's injuries. The borough insisted that its staff did their utmost to keep the road safe and clear from hazards.

Drago should not be compensated from public funds, having broken the law, they added.

The case continues.

Dismay at Just Stop Oil trial delays

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

The majority of Just Stop Oil protesters will not face trial until 2024, which was "not desperately helpful", the Metropolitan Police commissioner has said.

Sir Mark Rowley said the group was "much less assertive" because a crackdown had led to dozens of activists facing criminal charges. However, he said that the majority would not face trial until 2024. While some have been remanded in custody, it means others will be out on bail free to protest further.

Just Stop Oil promised a fresh wave of protests this week that largely amounted to activists slowing traffic by walking along roads in the capital. Rowley said such activity was causing "almost no delays whatsoever". He said photos had been shared that showed people standing in the carriageway creating "a story about London gridlock which isn't always true".

Rowley was one of the senior officers summoned to Downing Street this afternoon for a meeting about the environmental activists. Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman were expected to urge them to take more robust action. He told the London Assembly yesterday: "Frankly what I have seen is that JSO have got much less assertive in their recent protests; frankly as a consequence of a large number of their leaders being remanded in custody as a result of our operations. I am absolutely determined that anything that goes beyond lawful reasonable protest by creating serious disruption to London, by creating damage to property will be dealt with robustly."

He said about 60 protesters had been charged with the offence of public nuisance, with 21 of them remanded in custody. "One of them decided to plead guilty yesterday and got a six-month sentence," Rowley added. "Many of the rest, the trials are set for 2024, which isn't desperately helpful, but that is just the symptom of current delays in the criminal justice system."

Rowley called for an examination of why crime falls so "unevenly" in London, with young black men 12 times more likely to be murdered than their white counterparts. He accepted the need to rid the Met of racist officers, which he was "sorting out" and that there were issues of disproportionality with the use of sensitive powers such as strip-search.

Asked about low trust in the black community, he said: "It really strikes me that during Covid we got really exercised as a country when there were some signs of disproportionality, two or threefold, on some groups in terms of the impact [of the virus].

"Here we are, a decade of data that says — 12 times more likely if you're a young black man [to be murdered], and we almost never talk about it — why is that?

"We are always focusing on the police use of powers, and I'm absolutely clear we haven't always got that right, but if we're to tackle the fact that black communities have the lowest trust but also the highest victimisation, we need to be prepared to talk about these issues in the round."

Rowley said that police had overhauled strip-search procedures since the Child Q scandal, when a 15-year-old girl was searched on improper grounds while she was menstruating. But he added that more than 500 children had been stabbed in London in the past year, which resulted in 11 deaths.

Anti-sleaze rules may apply for

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Ministers and civil servants face being made to sign a legally binding commitment to abide by Whitehall sleaze rules when they leave office under proposals being drawn up by the government.

As part of the plan, senior figures could lose part of their pension or severance payment if they fail to get permission for any jobs they take on within two years of leaving their post.

The move is designed to strengthen ethical standards in government after a series of controversies, including the Greensill lobbying scandal involving David Cameron.

At present ministers and senior officials are expected to consult the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (Acoba) before taking on any external role outside government within two years of leaving office.

The committee can impose conditions on that employment, such as a lobbying ban, but its recommendations have no legal force and the government has no effective power to sanction those who break the rules.

Under proposed changes being considered by the Cabinet Office, senior officials would be required in their employment contracts to consult Acoba before they took on any external role on leaving the civil service.

As ministers don't have an employment contract they would be required to sign a legally binding "deed of undertaking" that would require them to comply with the rules and Acoba's decisions for two years after they leave office. This would allow the government to take out an injunction preventing employment that breached Acoba's advice or to effectively fine them by taking money from their pensions or severance payments.

Supporters of the plan, which has received the backing of a committee of MPs, say it would help to regulate the "revolving door" between Whitehall and the private sector and help restore public confidence in politics.

It follows a string of controversies in recent years in which ministers have taken on roles without first clearing them with Acoba or abiding by their rulings. Esther McVey, the former work and pensions secretary, was criticised twice by the committee for taking up roles without getting them cleared, while Philip Hammond, the former chancellor, was reprimanded for contacting a senior Treasury official on behalf of a bank for whom he was working.

The committee also reprimanded the former health minister Steve Brine for taking a job with a pharmaceutical company with which he had contact as a minister.

In 2018 Boris Johnson was sharply criticised following his resignation as foreign secretary for resuming his column with The Daily Telegraph without clearing it with Acoba.

In a report yesterday the Commons public administration and constitutional affairs committee said that the rules needed to be changed to provide a "sufficient deterrent" to improper conduct and safeguard the "integrity" of public life. It also called for Acoba rules to be extended to include a two-year ban on employment in sectors where ministers, special advisers and senior officials had had "significant and direct" responsibility for policy, regulation or the award of contracts, rather than only with the company that they had a relationship with.

The committee also said that the recent reappointment of Suella Braverman as home secretary by Rishi Sunak set a "dangerous precedent" for how breaches of the ministerial code were dealt with. It said the leaking of restricted material would be worthy of "significant sanction" and a new prime minister should not be able to simply "wipe the slate clean" when it came to appointing ministers.

William Wragg, the committee's chairman, said: "It is incumbent on the government to ensure that a robust and effective system for upholding standards in public life is put in place, with proper sanctions for those who break the rules. The prime minister is rightly the ultimate arbiter of the rules in our system.

"We urge him to show leadership and give legal status to all the ethics watchdogs. This will provide a better deterrent for those who may be tempted to act improperly, and further safeguard the integrity of our public life."

A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "We have been clear that this government will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level and we are already taking action to improve the effectiveness of the business appointment rules.

"We will respond to the committee's recommendations in due course."

Hancock's Covid diary

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Matt Hancock says that he tried to stop a "bonkers" plan to release prisoners during the Covid lockdown in the first instalment of his pandemic diaries.

The former health secretary is promising an inside account of the internal government battles during what he called the most intense crisis "in human history".

After criticism from colleagues for abandoning Westminster to appear on *I'm a Celebrity*, Hancock is preparing to settle scores with former political rivals including Dominic Cummings, who repeatedly tried to get him sacked.

He is also expected to talk about how he fell "deeply" in love with his former aide Gina Coladangelo, resulting in his forced resignation when he breached his own Covid rules by kissing her in his office.

In the first extract of the book to be serialised in the Daily Mail, Hancock sets out how he tried to kill a scheme to release thousands of prisoners to stop them catching Covid in jail.

In an entry for March 17, 2020, he writes: "A bonkers proposal from the Ministry of Justice to let prisoners out, as they'd be easier to manage if they're not in prison. Yes, really: they actually thought this might be a goer. I was emphasising [my opposition] so hard that all of a sudden my chair could take the strain no longer and ripped, tipping me unceremoniously on to the floor."

On April 3 he writes: "Officials are still insisting that justice secretary Rob Buckland wants to release thousands of non-violent prisoners to take the pressure off the system. I keep writing 'NO' in large letters on submissions asking me to sign this off."

A scheme was then announced to release up to 4,000 non-violent prisoners, although in the end only a few dozen were freed.



Micheál Martin, the taoiseach, welcoming the European Commission president

SNP's leader in Westminster resigns

Kieran Andrews

The Scottish National Party's leader in Westminster has stepped down two weeks after a party rival aborted a coup attempt at the eleventh hour.

In a move that was accelerated after The Times learnt of plans to rekindle plots to oust Ian Blackford, the Ross, Skye & Lochaber MP made the abrupt announcement yesterday morning.

He is expected to be replaced by Stephen Flynn, the energy spokesman, who two weeks ago said he had "no intention of standing" for the top job.

It followed reports in The Times that Flynn had informed senior party officials of his decision to stand. Several sources said Flynn had garnered sufficient support among SNP MPs to win a leadership contest.

As well as his denial last month, Flynn, 34, rejected claims in June that he was interested in the role as pressure mounted on Blackford, 61, over how he had dealt with Patrick Grady, the former chief whip, being found by the Commons authorities to have sexually harassed a young member of staff. Blackford was heard in a leaked recording telling SNP MPs to rally round Grady, saying he looked forward to "welcoming Patrick back" after a two-day suspension from parliament. He later said that "at no time at all" did he try to protect Grady.

It is understood Blackford's decision to step down came after talks with senior figures close to Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister.

He said: "After more than five years in the role, now is the right time for fresh leadership at Westminster as we head towards a general election and the next steps in winning Scotland's independence."

Blackford pledged that he would give his successor his "full support" but it is understood that Flynn plans "major changes" to the frontbench team at Westminster.

Sturgeon paid tribute to Blackford, saying that he had led the group at a time of "huge electoral success for the SNP" and had done an "outstanding job in holding the Tory government to account and in promoting the case for independence".

"He will continue to play an important role as constituency MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, and I have also asked him to take on a role as part of the wider SNP team preparing the case for independence," she said.

Flynn, the Aberdeen South MP, was dissuaded from standing two weeks ago by figures loyal to Sturgeon and Blackford, days before the Supreme Court ruling that Holyrood does not have the power to hold a unilateral independence referendum.

Blackford's resignation followed a poll by Redfield and Wilton Strategies, which found that his approval rating with voters had risen by 13 points since its last poll in September, to 4 per cent.

Ian Murray, Labour's shadow Scottish secretary, said the SNP was "in total disarray". Joanna Cherry, the SNP MP who was sacked from the front bench by Blackford, said she was "pleased to hear" he had quit. "It's time for fresh leadership and tolerance of debate and diverse viewpoints," she tweeted.

Quentin Letts

Swoons and blushes in a right royal romance

Political Sketch



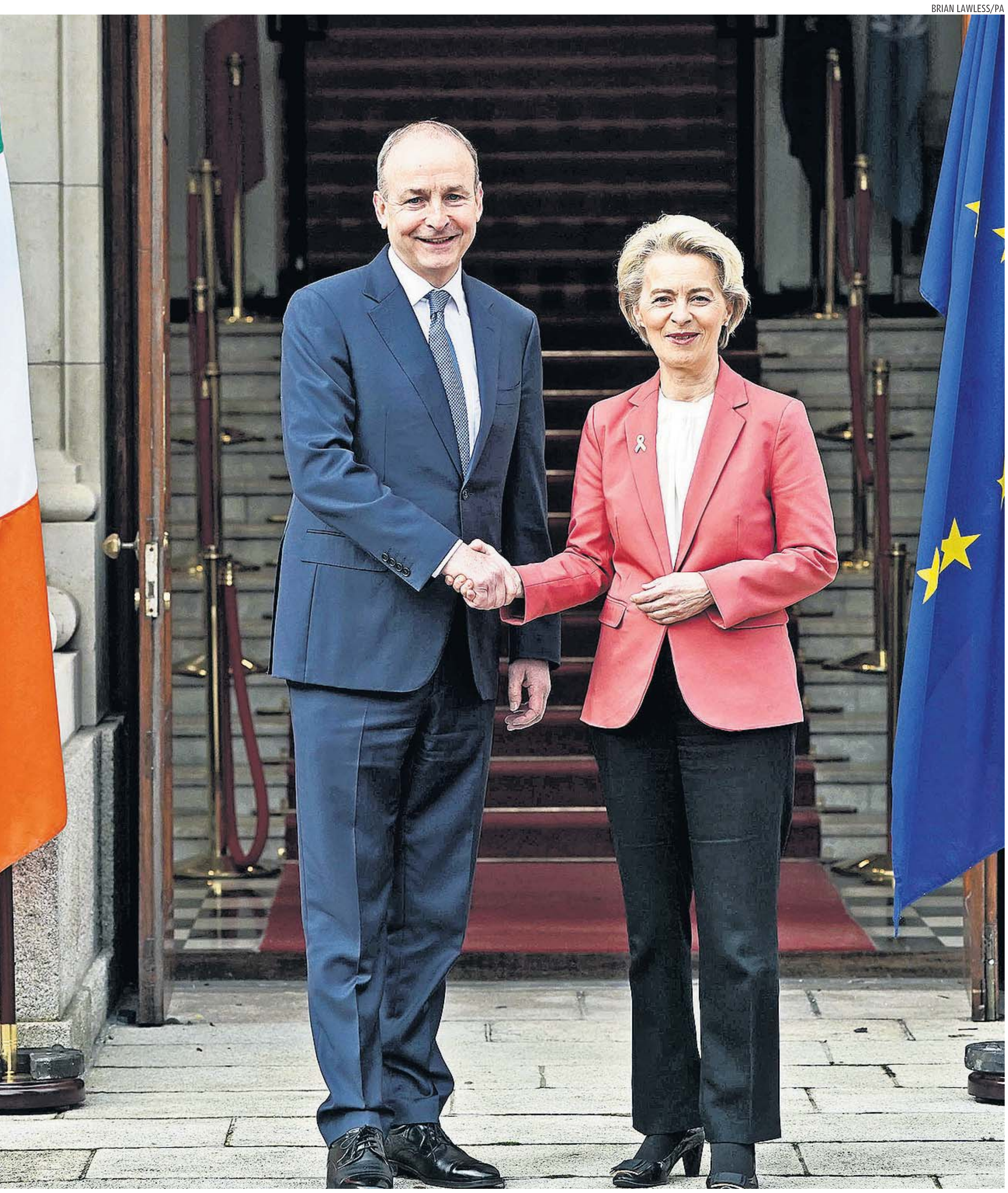
Stand back from the platform, royal favour coming through. Legislation normally takes an age but the Counsellors of State Bill (Lords) whooshed through the Commons in 34 minutes.

In Westminster terms that is a streaking meteorite. Such was its velocity that peculiar things occurred. A white owl flapped through the cloisters. A full-bottomed Conservative poohbah spoke of his affection for Labour's deputy leader. Angela Rayner, better known for calling Tories "scum" confessed that the affection was reciprocated. Yes, she had a tendresse for the old walrus.

The bill in question concerned the King's desire to let Princess Anne and Prince Edward take privy council meetings when he is out of the country. That was uncontroversial but parliamentary approval was nonetheless required. When the bill originated in the Lords, peers blew a few ruderies

two years after ministers quit

BRIAN LAWLESS/PA



Ursula von der Leyen to Dublin yesterday. She said there was a new "pragmatic spirit" to EU negotiations with Britain

EU president says a Northern Ireland deal is 'within reach'

Oliver Wright

Britain and the European Union should be able to "find the way" to an agreement on the Northern Ireland protocol Ursula von der Leyen, the EU president, said as she described talks with Rishi Sunak as "encouraging".

She said she was "very confident" a solution would be found if the UK government was willing.

Her comments during a two-day visit to Dublin were echoed by Micheal Martin, the Irish prime minister, who said a deal could help create a "new and vital partnership" with the UK that he now believed was in reach.

The government and the EU are engaged in technical talks in an effort to reduce checks on goods crossing from Britain to Northern Ireland as part of a reformed agreement. Both sides hope to strike a deal before the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement in April.

In an address to the Irish parliament, Von der Leyen suggested that relations between the two sides had improved with Sunak as prime minister.

"I'm glad that today our talks with London are marked by a new, more pragmatic spirit because the European Union and the United Kingdom are still members of the same extended family, even if we no longer live in the same house," she said.

"By applying common sense and focusing on the issues that really matter in Northern Ireland, I believe we can make progress in resolving the practical issues surrounding the protocol.

"We're listening closely to the business and civil society stakeholders in Northern Ireland, but the solutions we find must ensure that the single market continues to function in Ireland and elsewhere in the European Union.

"I think if both sides are sensitive to this careful balance, a workable solution is within reach. I believe we have a duty to find it." She added: "My contacts [with] Prime Minister Sunak are encouraging and I trust we can find the way. Let me reassure you, Ireland can always count on the European Union to stand by the Good Friday agreement.

"There can be no hard border on the island of Ireland."

This prompted applause from Irish politicians in the chamber.

Von der Leyen also said that Europe was the "incentive to look beyond the barbed wire" and heal north-south divisions in Ireland.

She quoted John Hume, the nationalist leader who was instrumental in the peace process, who said that the EU was practical and inspirational.

"This has made Brexit even more painful for all of us," she said. "All Europeans immediately understood how important it was to preserve peace on the island of Ireland."

Simon Coveney, the Irish foreign affairs minister, said afterwards: "I too believe that a solution is within our grasp, if we have a partner to achieve an outcome that we can all accept and move on from."

Martin thanked the EU for its "unswerving solidarity with Ireland" throughout Brexit. "Like you, we want to see a new and vital partnership with the United Kingdom, a constructive one, which will be achieved if we can resolve the issues relating to the protocol, and with right political will, I believe we can achieve that," he said.

Sunak is understood to have made clear to Brussels that he wants to find a deal and that he is prepared to be more pragmatic than his two Tory predecessors in Downing Street.

However, he still needs to sell any compromise deal to Unionists in the north as well as his own backbenchers who remain sceptical about his Brexit credentials despite having been an early supporter of leaving the EU.

about princes Andrew and Harry. Both men are currently offgames as counsellors of state but we will not go into that, thank you.

Would an MP take a pop at the dukes of York and Sussex? Boringly — or happily, depending on your loyalty — none did. The only moment of naughtiness came from the SNP's Brendan O'Hara. He started veering off-piste to demand royal modernisation, not least from certain *vieille truites* at Buckingham Palace receptions. The deputy speaker, Nigel Evans, leapt up like a man whose bottom had been singed. He bawled that the Scot was out of order. Oh well, said O'Hara's face, it was worth a try.

Rayner confirmed that Labour was happy with the bill. Almost no one wished to contribute further save for "Sir" Michael Ellis (C, Northampton North). Ellis is not truly knighted but everyone calls him "Sir Michael" because he is so operatically sumptuous. He also has raging red-carpet fever. Parliament has no more ardent a monarchist.

Were Ellis a cushion, he would have silk tassels. Were he a motorcar his dashboard would have walnut veneer and a pennant fluttering from his bonnet. If his pyjamas are not double-breasted and embroidered with the royal cipher, I'm a parsnip. From his barrel tummy to the curlicued accent, Ellis is a collector's item. Sister Angela, as you may know, is a less purple proposition.

The official record in Hansard will show that the Rt Hon gentleman's speech on the second-reading debate of the Counsellors of State Bill (Lords) was a model of constitutional veneration. It referred to our last monarch as "Her late Majesty the Queen of blessed and glorious memory" The King was "extremely industrious and absolutely passionate about his work". To this Ellis, like Sir Donald Wolfit giving his John of Gaunt, added huskily, "we are lucky to have him". The Princess Royal was lauded for her "work ethic, her drive, her pragmatic approach". Her drive at Gatcombe Park? The Earl of Wessex was "trusted" and "a welcome addition to the pool of options".

Moved by his own oratory, Ellis lifted his chin towards the ceiling to tilt salt tears back into their jelly-moulds. He gave a little shudder at our great fortune to live in a kingdom. On some distant shore a Union flag was raised.

Until recently Ellis was a government minister. It was he who often fended off corruption crises at the dispatch box. His opponent then? Rayner. How she used to bellow and rage at him! Then Ellis was sacked and a great double act was broken.

Now, listening to this royal riff, Rayner touched her bosom lightly and gasped: "I miss him." Blame global warming if you like, the icecap was melting. Ellis blinked with surprise. He replied: "May I say that I miss her, too?" Hon members: "Ah." Rayner blushed deeply, shook her red curls and cried: "I live for days like this."

Barbara Cartland herself could not have devised a more touching romance.

Johnson will contest seat again amid Tory exodus

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

Boris Johnson has told his local Conservative association that he will fight the next election to remain an MP.

The former prime minister will stand again in Uxbridge & South Ruislip, indicating that he is likely to make interventions on key issues from the back benches.

Johnson, who withdrew in October from the race to replace Liz Truss and return to No 10, has been the MP for the constituency since 2015, and will put his name on the ballot paper for the fourth time. His majority after the 2019 election was 7,210. The next election is expected in 2024.

Whether Johnson would continue as a backbencher had been in question as 12 of his Tory colleagues announced they will not contest the next election.

In recent days Johnson has been paying attention to his constituency, including posting photographs of a visit to Ruislip Synagogue and Uxbridge High School. In a video posted on Twitter last week he was shown shaking hands with constituents and visiting a football club and other local businesses.

The newly revived focus on his constituency does not, however, rule out a future leadership bid for Johnson.

Conservative MPs have until Monday to tell the party whether they wish to stand again, and where they would like to stand if changes proposed by the Boundary Commission alter their constituency.

Ministers have attempted to play down the number of MPs stepping down, with a dozen Labour MPs also having announced they would not contest the next election.

However, while the Labour contingent were all aged over 60, many of those leaving on the Tory side are in their 40s. Douglas Ross, the Scottish Tory leader, is 39, William Wragg is 34, and Dehenna Davison is 29.

News

3,000 patients a day waiting half an hour to enter A&E

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

More than 3,000 patients a day are being stranded outside A&Es for at least 30 minutes in the worst delays in England since records began.

NHS figures have revealed a deepening crisis in ambulance handovers — the time between paramedics arriving and A&E staff receiving the patient.

In total 11,389 patients — one in seven — endured delays of at least an hour after arriving at hospital last week, against a target of 15 minutes.

And 23,999 handover delays of half an hour or longer took place in the seven days to November 27, about 3,400 a day. This was 31 per cent of the 77,054 ambulance arrivals, the highest proportion on record and up from 29 per cent last week and 23 per cent this time last year. The figures will add to fears when paramedics and 999 call handlers walk out in the first national strike, with dates expected before Christmas. The three unions — GMB, Unison and Unite — all announced this week their members had voted in favour of strikes.

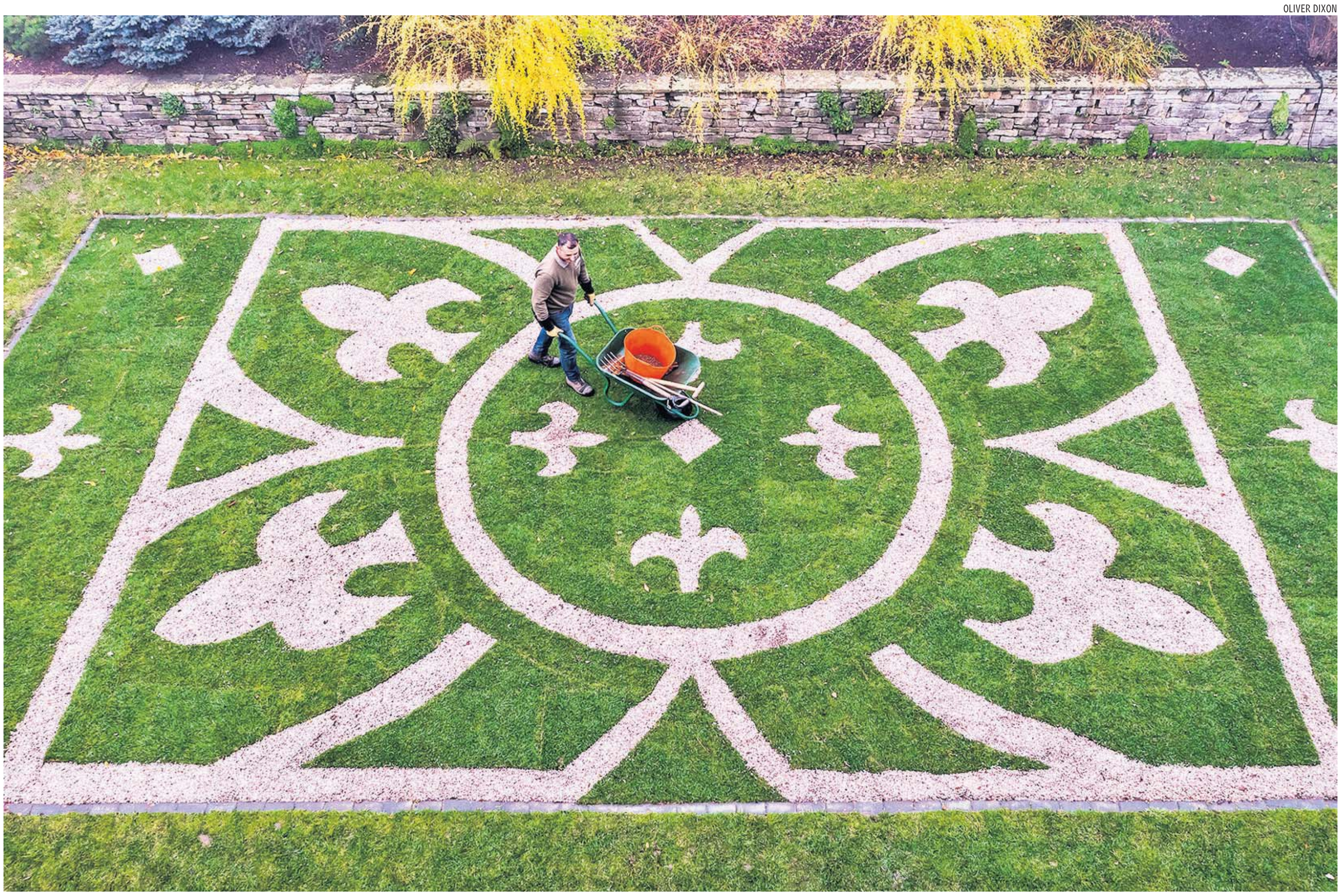
Ambulance chiefs have warned patients are already dying due to the long delays, which mean paramedics cannot answer new 999 calls. NHS bosses blame a lack of social care capacity, which means hospitals have no spare beds to admit patients and no space for new arrivals at A&E.

Professor Sir Stephen Powis, the NHS national medical director, said: "The NHS is facing a perfect storm, with winter virus cases rapidly increasing alongside pressures in emergency care and hugely constrained capacity."

Meanwhile, there was a 40 per cent jump in the number of patients in hospital with flu last week.

Separate data showed vacancies in England at a record high with 133,000 full-time equivalent posts unfilled.

OLIVER DIXON



Grass routes Horticulturalists used 50 square metres of turf and ten wheelbarrows of stones to create a Tudor turf display at the RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey

Prepare for death rates to remain high, warn Whitty and Vallance

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Britain is in for a "prolonged period" of high death rates because people stayed away from the NHS during the pandemic or could not get treatment, the chief medical officer for England has warned.

Sir Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the government, acknowledged that pleas to protect the NHS, combined with the pressure of treating Covid, were likely to lead to significant numbers dying of conditions such as heart disease and cancer in the coming months and years.

In advice to their successors on dealing with pandemics, they warned that the speed at which Covid vaccines were developed might lull politicians into a false sense of security.

Whitty and Vallance were the public faces of the Westminster government's scientific response to Covid and, alongside leading public health officials from the other home nations, have published a "technical report" on the pandemic. While insisting that the document would not second-guess policies made by ministers and was not a "playbook for a future pandemic", they acknowledged difficult trade-offs in dealing with Covid.

Testing shortages in the "critical months" early in the pandemic hampered efforts to track the virus, they said, adding that "this may well be a repeated problem in future pandemics".

Dealing with care homes involved "some of the most complex" decisions as officials tried to reduce transmission of the virus without producing staff shortages or leaving vulnerable residents isolated. Despite criticism of a policy of discharging patients en masse from hospitals to care homes early in the pandemic, Whitty and Vallance insisted this "does not appear to have been the dominant way in which Covid-19 entered most care homes".

Whitty and Vallance hinted at tensions with politicians, describing a "craving for certainty" from models that could not provide it, adding: "Policymakers are often comforted by being able to see a line on a graph purporting to show what will happen under a given policy, but modelling will never be able to precisely predict the future."

They also stressed to their successors the importance of testing new drugs and policies over the "very strong" temptation to take swift action with untested techniques.

They praised the "extraordinary speed" of Covid vaccine development, but warned: "There is a danger this falsely reassures some policymakers that a vaccine can be produced at this speed for the next pandemic." They noted the inability to produce an HIV vaccine despite years of effort.

Britain had to rely on lockdowns, as well as facemasks, ventilation and hand washing, before drugs were available and immunity levels rose. They said this was likely to be "broadly similar" in a future pandemic, adding "Delays in drugs or vaccines being available, or the emergence of a variant with greater transmissibility, vaccine escape or leading to more severe disease, could result in longer deployment of non-pharmaceutical intervention."

Whitty and Vallance acknowledged that lockdowns were "always a matter of the least bad option, not a 'good' one" and that school closures risked having "lasting effects on children's education, developmental and life chances".

Shifting to online GP appointments had helped to reduce transmission but they acknowledged the risk that reluctance to see a doctor had resulted in "significant unmet need" that could lead to further death and illness.

"There is little doubt that delays in presentation, reductions in secondary prevention (such as statins and antihypertensives), postponement of elective and semi-elective care and screening will have led to later and more severe presentation of non-Covid illness," they wrote. "The combined effect of this will likely lead to a prolonged period of non-Covid excess mortality and morbidity after the worst period of the pandemic is over."

Quintagram® No 1488

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Liberates (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Horticultural area (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Greek goddess of the hunt (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Bruce ---, late entertainer (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 EW Hornung's gentleman thief (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	D	E	E	E	E
E	F	F	F	F	G	H	I
L	M	N	O	R	R	R	R
R	S	S	S	S	T	T	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

Hospital flu cases rise by 40% in week

Eleanor Hayward

Hospital admissions for flu have jumped by 40 per cent in the past week.

Data from NHS England shows an average of 482 flu patients a day were in hospital last week, up from 344 the week before and ten times higher than this time last year.

Cases are highest in the under-fives, an age group particularly vulnerable to flu after two winters of social distancing. NHS data shows 89.6 per cent of paediatric intensive care beds were filled last week as flu cases surged, up from 82.5 per cent a year ago.

There were 4,964 people in hospital with Covid-19, a rise of 8 per cent on the previous week.

Omicron BQ.1, a relatively new variant, is now the dominant strain in England while a further variant, Omicron BA.2.75, is increasing in prevalence, the UK Health Security Agency said.

Dr Mary Ramsay, from the agency, said: "It is particularly important that everyone who is eligible comes forward to receive their booster jab.

"While Covid-19 and flu can be mild infections for many, we must not forget that they can cause severe illness or even death for those most vulnerable in our communities."

More than 1,200 people died from flu in England and Wales in 2019, but this figure plummeted during lockdowns.

Research by Asthma + Lung UK, a charity, revealed that 74 per cent of people with lung conditions planned to heat their homes less, while 45 per cent looked set to turn their heating off altogether this winter. This is despite experts recommending 18 to 21C as the best temperature at home for people with lung conditions.

Emma Rubach, the charity's head of health advice, said: "This winter millions of people with lung conditions face a triple threat: flu season, the circulation of Covid-19 and plummeting temperatures. For some people with lung conditions, being exposed to any of these, or a combination, can cause a flare-up of symptoms and make them more vulnerable to illnesses.

"For those with asthma, being exposed to a trigger like flu or cold air could potentially lead to a life-threatening asthma attack, or in the case of COPD, a worsening of symptoms which can lead to hospitalisation."

BARRY BATCHELOR/NATIONAL TRUST



Colony chief's window on empire comes home

By the late 17th century, the colonies in America were profitable and ever-expanding (Jack Blackburn writes). With slaves taken from Africa and wealth sent to Britain it was a truly global operation, yet the politician in charge of it was destined never to even cross the Atlantic.

William Blathwayt's window on the world he governed was art, including a large panorama of the Barbadian port of Bridgetown. Now that work is returning home after the National Trust bought it to help tell the story of how the early empire was run from what is now south Gloucestershire.

Dyrham Park, the house Blathwayt built



while he was auditor general of plantation revenues, will once again host the painting and it will be on public display for the first time.

While many will see this as part of the trust's push to acknowledge the links between colonialism and its properties, the curator at Dyrham Park said that in its case these efforts had been constant since the trust acquired the property in 1961. "We do look at those histories where they are relevant and, when someone in their lifetime is called the most knowledgeable about colonial matters, it plainly is very relevant," said Rupert Goulding, the curator. "This is a very helpful way for us to enhance, expand and better interpret that."



William Blathwayt ran colonies he never visited in America. A painting of Bridgetown is coming back to Dyrham Park

Blathwayt started his career as a diplomat in the Hague before becoming a colonial administrator. While he does not appear to have owned any colonial properties, his career relied on them and he received gifts and enticements from those he dealt with.

The painting is being placed in a room with other items highlighting Blathwayt's professional life, including a painting of a cacao tree from Jamaica, maps and books. Visitors can also look at copies of documents from the extensive archive.

Yoga teacher murdered 'jealous' lodger who would not move out

Keith Perry

A yoga teacher is facing life in prison after being convicted of murdering her lodger after he refused to move out.

Dawn Lewis, 54, stabbed Glenn Richards, 61, five times on April 18 at her cottage in Glastonbury, Somerset, because she wanted to evict him, a court was told. Lewis claimed she had acted in self-defence but was convicted by jurors at Bristol Crown Court.

An expert said knife wounds to her leg were probably self-inflicted and she previously told friends she planned to stab the victim and then herself. The jury deliberated for less than nine hours, coming to a majority verdict of 11-1. Lewis will be sentenced today and Judge William Hart told her to expect a life sentence.

Lewis said Richards, a former police officer whom she knew for 12 years, changed his behaviour not long after he moved in at the end of last year.



Dawn Lewis, 54, stabbed Glenn Richards, 61, to death in her cottage

She said he became "very distressed and depressed" due to losing his job in the charity shop where they met.

Angry text messages shown to the jury revealed their relationship rapidly deteriorated over the five months.

The court heard Richards had asked Lewis to marry him, despite her being gay and in a relationship. She said he grew jealous of all of her male friends.

She told the court his behaviour became "stalkerish" and he intentionally walked in on her in the shower or in bed, even when he knew she was having sex.

During the trial, the court was told Richards had served ten years in prison for stabbing his ex-wife to death in front of their two children in 2002 while suffering from mental illness.

Richards had been in council housing in Street, Somerset, before moving in with Lewis. Her friends said she had discussed at a dinner party how she might get away with murder by turning the knife on herself.

Peter Bredell told the court on Wednesday that before the killing, Lewis told him: "I am going to stab him and stab myself." He then mimed the stabbing motion to the leg she allegedly made with the knife.

Her neighbour George Schomburg said Lewis had made a similar claim at a dinner party a few months earlier.

Richards suffered five large stab wounds, two of which were "not survivable", while Lewis sustained three cuts to her thigh, which a doctor told the trial "did not appear to fit the description of the attack".

Lewis told the court she carried a knife because she feared Richards, but she said she did not contact the police because she did not want to put him in jeopardy owing to his convictions. But Eloise Marshall KC, for the prosecution, told Lewis: "You weren't scared."

When Lewis called 999 on April 18, paramedics found her covered in blood and Richards on the floor.

Judge Hart reminded jurors of Lewis's evidence in which she claimed to have heard Richards pacing upstairs before there was an "almighty bang".

She said she kicked down the door to his room and found him holding a knife before he lunged at her.

Lewis claimed she grabbed the knife and stabbed him back. But the prosecution argued she intended to kill Richards and stabbed him in the back as he walked away and mocked up the scene to make it look like he had attacked her.

Only a third of black teenage girls trust the police

David Woode Crime Correspondent

Black children and teenagers' trust in the police is "alarmingly low", with only a third of black teenage girls having confidence in policing, a report says.

Researchers said 36 per cent of young black people aged between ten and 18 trusted the police compared with 75 per cent of white people of that age.

Crest Advisory, the criminal justice consultancy, explored racial disparities in children's experiences and views of policing and stop and search. It found that trust in the police was lower among older children and girls, with black girls the lowest of all at 33 per cent, according to the *Forgotten Voices* report.

The poll of a representative sample of 1,542 people showed that less than a quarter of black children and teenagers trusted police to stop and search them fairly. One child said during a focus group: "[I was] stopped outside school in front of lots of peers. Now I have anxiety." Another said: "It made me feel angry. I felt the police were only using stop and search to victimise and harass because some of my friends are black."

Seventy-five per cent of young white people felt comfortable during police interactions compared with 40 per cent of young black people, the report said.

Harvey Redgrave, chief executive of Crest Advisory, said: "Contentious examples of racism and discrimination within policing, alongside the use of police powers, such as stop and search, were cited by children as reasons why their trust in the police had declined. These children now felt unsure as to whether they could trust the police."

The National Police Chiefs' Council said stop and search was a "vital tool" to keep the public safe but conceded that more work was needed to raise levels of trust. The findings come six months after all 43 chief constables in England and Wales committed to the Police Race Action Plan, which aims to "improve outcomes for black people who work within or interact with policing".

Anger as BBC merges local radio output

David Sanderson

If you live in Yorkshire then rejoice at the BBC radio created just for you.

But in Bognor Regis it is information about London's District Line for you.

The BBC's plans to merge content on its local radio network were heavily criticised by MPs yesterday as it emerged that almost the entire south-east would receive similar "local" programming for swathes of the week.

The 39 stations from Radio Newcastle to Radio Guernsey are to share "regional" and "national" content from 2pm on weekdays and for almost all of the weekend. Kent, Sussex and Surrey will be combined with London while Radios Solent, Berkshire and Oxford will also link up. An "all-England" show will run on all stations from 10pm each day and from the afternoon on Sunday.

BBC said it would save £11 million with executives telling the digital, culture, media and sport select committee that the money would be reinvested in BBC Sounds and local online offerings.

Jason Horton, the director of BBC England, acknowledged that "some of those regions are big", adding: "We are looking at the historical elements in terms of the regional television news programmes where we continue to serve an audience across those areas."

The proposals, to be implemented by the end of next year, have caused widespread concern including from the media minister Julia Lopez, who said she was disappointed with the "extensive cuts". Simon Jupp, the Tory MP, said it would "rip the heart" from the network.

Rhodri Talfan Davies, BBC director of nations, blamed a licence fee freeze and "incredibly high inflation".

WAGs back on land — and players off the leash

David Brown Doha

England's WAGs have abandoned ship, David Beckham has departed Qatar and the players have finally got a chance to do some sightseeing after two weeks trapped in their hotel.

The five days between England's final group victory against Wales and the knockout match against Senegal on Sunday has led to rearrangements.

The players' wives, girlfriends and other family members have left HMS WAG, the 6,000 passenger ship MSC World Europa moored in Doha's old harbour, which has been their base until now.

The families are said to have run up a £20,000 bar bill at a karaoke session the night England beat Iran 6-2 in the opening game. After ten days aboard they have now moved ashore, with some renting luxury villas and others movng into five-star hotels.

Amie Coady, 29, the wife of the England defender Conor, posted a recording of a spectacular marbled villa by a beach 50 miles from Doha. She showed her three children in a swimming pool and dancing on a patio while staff brought a bottle in an ice bucket.

James Maddison's partner Kennedy Alexa, 28, shared images from another villa and a photograph of them kissing by the sea with the caption: "Quality time with you."

At least one player's family are understood to have checked into the Waldorf Astoria Lusail, which has its own private beach. Perhaps it is a vote of confidence as the five-star hotel is a short distance from the 89,000-capacity Lusail stadium where the World Cup final will be played.

Rebecca Naylor, the partner of the Wales goalkeeper Danny Ward, hinted at regret among the WAGs who had stayed on the liner. She posted footage on social media of a luxury hotel before zooming to the cruise ship, writing the caption: "When you should have done the ten days here and not there".

A Football Association source confirmed that the WAGs had left the ship but said that had always been the plan after the group stage of the tournament.

Some of the England squad visited Lusail on Wednesday evening after being allowed out of their hotel in the beach resort of Al Wakra.

The England midfielder Declan Rice, 23, said players had enjoyed a "chilled day" with their families. He met his girlfriend, Lauren Fryer, and their four-month old son, Jude.

"I've got my little newborn out here with me so I was able to spend the day with him, which was really special," he said yesterday. "We've not seen our families the whole time, so when we do see them it's really special."

Gareth Southgate, the England manager, initially insisted that the players n would not be allowed to mix with their families until the conclusion of the group stages, but allowed the relatives into the team hotel at the weekend for dinner.

Rice said: "We have got to be careful with Covid. We don't want any mistakes happening, anyone pulling out with Covid."

David Beckham, 47, is said to be being paid £150 million to promote Qatar as a tourism destination but after two weeks shaking hands with dignitaries and posing for selfies with selected fans has returned home.

The former England captain sought intellectual solace in the company of Lord Winston, 82, one of Britain's leading fertility experts.

He visited Winston's son Ben, a television producer, along with his agent, Dave Gardner, who accompanied him to Qatar.

He posted a photograph on Instagram of the group watching England's victory over Wales in a private cinema room. He wrote: "Great win for the lads last night, catching up with mates."

Many of the 3,500 fans from England who attended the group stage games have already returned home. Others will be arriving today and tomorrow before the Senegal match.





Kennedy Alexa, top, met up with her boyfriend James Maddison. Lauren Fryer was reunited with Declan Rice





Maguire gets a kicking in Ghana's parliament

The England player Harry Maguire has been ridiculed in Ghana's parliament, where an MP accused the country's vice-president of being as inept at protecting its finances as the defender is his team's goal (Richard Assheton, writes).

Isaac Adongo called Mahamadu Bawumia, a former deputy governor of the Bank of Ghana, an "economic Maguire", provoking laughter.

"There was a player in the United Kingdom, in England, called Maguire who was playing for Manchester United," the member for Bolgatanga Central said yesterday.

"Harry Maguire is a defender. He was tackling everybody and throwing his body everywhere so that he was seen as the best defender in the world. Manchester United went and bought him. He became the biggest threat at the centre of Manchester United's

Grealish bonded with disabled boy after letter

David Brown

Jack Grealish described yesterday how he had developed a close relationship with a young fan who has cerebral palsy.

The England striker performed a goal celebration for Finlay Fisher during the opening match against Iran.

Finlay, 12, wrote to Grealish after learning that the player's sister Hollie, 19, has the same condition. The day after the goal celebration Grealish made a telephone call to Finlay.

The footballer said yesterday: "I do that because that's what I feel I'm good at sometimes. Because I can relate to it. With my little sister, it was a nice thing for him as well. He'll go back to school and he'll probably be quite popular.

"That was just something that came naturally. I think it ended up being so nice and quite emotional.

"That's just the way I've been brought up. I know I've been brought up well. I've got a good heart, I think I have. Obviously I've done stupid stuff in my life but I think everything that I do good is from my heart."

Finlay wrote in his letter to Grealish: "I love the way you are really good with your sister, you really get it. You always have her there with you and you look really proud."

Grealish, 27, said he enjoyed spending time with his family in the stands after matches, especially his sister, who has poor eyesight and spends time watching *Coronation Street* and *Star Trek* on her iPad.

"She'd never be able to see me or anything because she's obviously visually impaired, but obviously it's just nice to go and spend time with them after because she gets it but she obviously can't watch the game," he said.

Grealish also revealed he had confronted his father, Kevin, about why he wore a bow tie to matches.

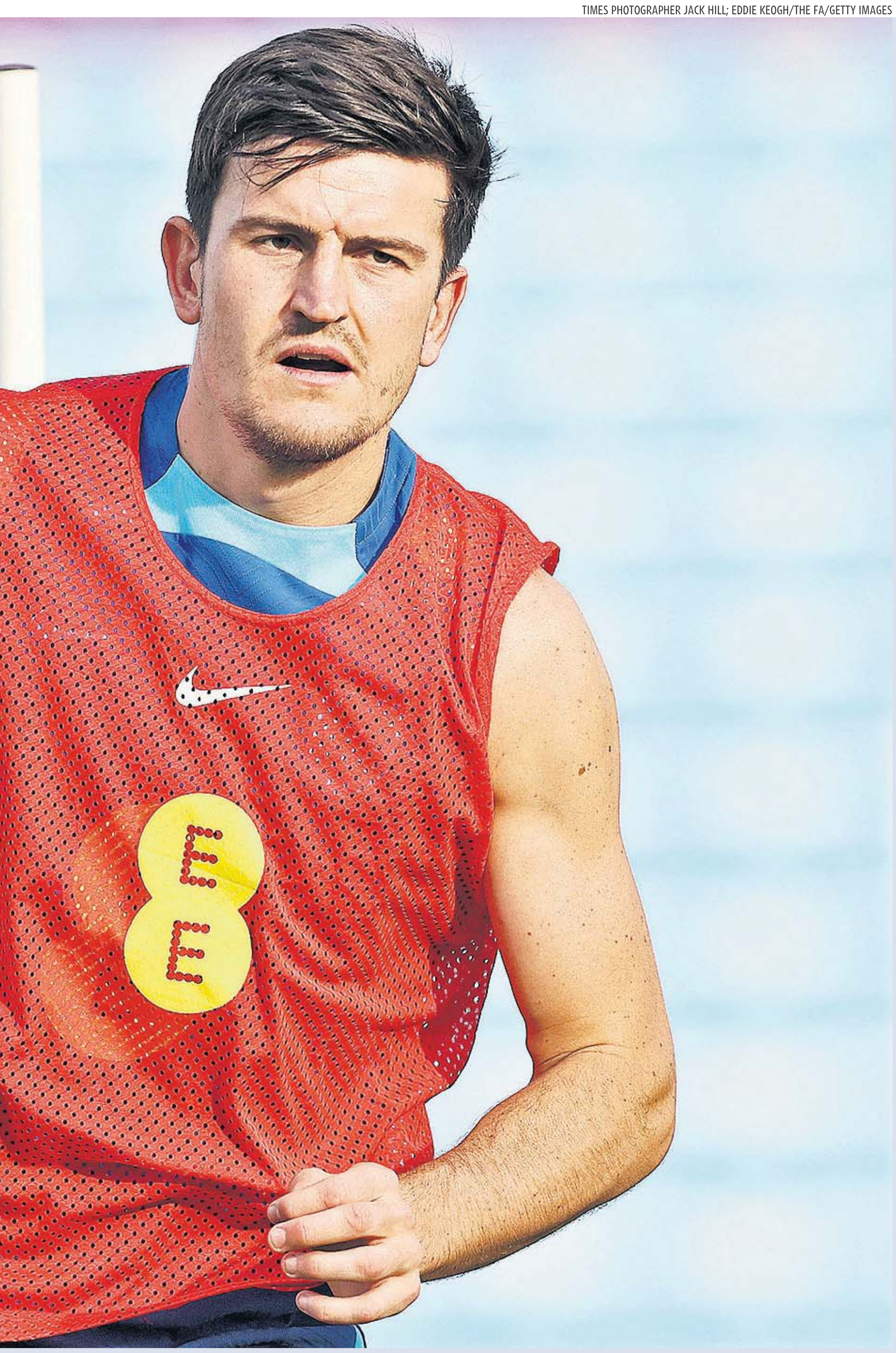
"I said 'what you wearing there?' He had a little bow tie as well but my mum told him to take it off," he recalled.

Asked if the bow tie was just for the World Cup, Grealish replied: "I can't tell, I don't know where he got it from, it looks like something from the market, doesn't it? He keeps wearing it as well."

INSIDE TODAY
12 pages of the best reporting, analysis and comment from the tournament like no other



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL; EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES



Harry Maguire was cited by Isaac Adongo, left. The MP provoked laughter by saying Mahamadu Bawumia was "an economic Maguire", helping opponents

defence, tackling Manchester's players and giving assists to opponents."

Bringing the house down on his side of the benches, Adongo added: "Mr Speaker, when even the opponents failed to score, Maguire would score for them."

He said: "Mr Speaker, you remember in this country we also have an economic Maguire. This 'economic Maguire' went to Malata market and we were clapping, saying, 'This man is the best in managing foreign currency.' The same 'economic Maguire' was roaming at Central University delivering lectures on how to restore the value of the cedi."

Malata market is a popular grocery market in Accra, Ghana's capital. The cedi is Ghana's currency.

"Mr Speaker, when we gave this Maguire the opportunity to be at the centre of our defence, he became the risk of our own goal," Adongo said. "Dr Bawumia, our economic Maguire, is now tackling all the fundamentals of our economy and destroying all of them."

Ghana is in talks with the International Monetary Fund over a possible £2.4 billion bailout as the west African country faces rampant inflation, spiralling debt and a tumbling currency.

Maguire, 29, who was bought by Manchester United for £80 million in 2019, has been the subject of intense criticism this year over performances for his club, and has started only three Premier League matches this season. However, Gareth Southgate, the England manager, has kept faith in him, which he has repaid by marshalling England to two clean sheets in three World Cup matches so far, being praised as a standout performer.

Maguire's presence in the England team has attracted widespread scrutiny in football-mad west Africa, where the Premier League is followed closely.

Before the World Cup Maguire said he believes some players are targeted online disproportionately because many fans now watch only clips of matches, and are therefore more susceptible to "social media groupthink".

England tickets listed on Google for £4,000

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Google has been accused of profiting from "rogue" ticket touts by advertising seats for England's World Cup game against Senegal for up to £4,000.

Anyone googling "World Cup tickets" this week has been shown adverts at the top of the page for two websites — one of which tried to sell tickets to Premier League matches that were played behind closed doors.

The top link is for Ticombo, which has hundreds of tickets listed for the England game on Sunday for between £279 and £3,950. The second link is for Seatsnet, which was the website selling non-existent Premier League tickets. It has tickets for the Senegal game listed at between £255 and £1,582.

Tickets to England v Senegal were originally allocated by Fifa in a ballot with terms and conditions that prohibited their resale on any platform other than its own re-sale website.

The Fifa ticketing site states: "Tickets that have been impermissibly transferred are not valid and may be cancelled at any time without notice."

Fans without legitimately purchased tickets may also be denied entry to Qatar. To enter the country, spectators must have a fan ID, which will be issued only to those with a valid ticket.

The FanFair Alliance, which campaigns against profiteering in the secondary ticketing market, says ticket sellers and the online platforms they use have a shared responsibility to ensure that buyers are provided with details of seat locations, restrictions of use and the ticket's face value.

None of the listings on the Seatsnet website viewed by The Times had any of this information. The seats for sale on Ticombo had their face value and some information on their location but there was nothing on the listings about the risk of the tickets being cancelled.

The website does warn customers in its terms and conditions that "some countries have laws that forbid or restrict the sale of tickets" and that buyers "might be denied entry". Adam Webb, of FanFair Alliance, said: "Frustratingly, we have been reporting these issues to Google for some time. I think it's scandalous how Google is enabling rogue ticketing websites to buy their way to the top of search and target UK consumers. It is not good enough for these ticketing websites to say they are merely enabling others to sell tickets and accepting no responsibility themselves. They have to protect consumers by verifying the tickets for sale are valid.

"Not only are these websites appearing to operate in breach of UK consumer standards, they also seem to be breaking Google's own guidelines. The search adverts of these and other ticket resale sites are misleading, and their online reviews suggest many fans are already becoming victims. Google should guide their users towards official ticket agents."

Seatsnet did not respond to a request for comment. Ticombo said that if seat information was not on a ticket, it would be because those details had not yet been provided by the organiser. It argues that it is a technological marketplace and that sellers on its platform are obliged to give buyers any necessary information, such as restrictions on access. It also points out that buyers must confirm they have read its terms and conditions before they purchase.

In a statement, it said: "Ticombo continues to enjoy the confidence of its customers because it safely and transparently provides users with a platform to buy and sell tickets for a broad range of events. Our excellent 4.5 star rating on Trustpilot speaks for itself."

Google said: "When people use our platform for help with purchasing tickets, we want to make sure that they have an experience they can trust. As such, we regularly review our policies to ensure we are providing a good experience for consumers. We updated our secondary ticketing policy in 2018 to ensure resellers cannot claim to be official providers of tickets and they must be transparent about their price, fees and taxes before requiring payment."

First woman to referee in tournament

David Brown Doha

Stéphanie Frappart made history last night as she led the first all-female refereeing team at the finals of a men's football World Cup.

The Frenchwoman was selected for the match between Germany and Costa Rica. The Germans won on the night, but were knocked out of the tournament after Japan beat Spain.

Frappart was joined by her assistant referees Neuza Back of Brazil and Karen Díaz of Mexico at the Al Bayt Stadium. All three women are 38.

Frappart said before the tournament, "Since I started I was always supported by teams, clubs and players. So I feel like another referee inside the pitch. I was always welcome, so I think I will be welcome as before."

The Costa Rica coach Luis Suárez celebrated her appointment in a "very sexist" sport. "This is another step forward, which speaks volumes of this woman, of her commitment of doing things," he said. "And especially in this sport, it's a very sexist one. It's very difficult to reach the point she has reached." Germany's coach Hansi Flick said: "She deserves to be here due to her performance and her achievements."



The officials Stéphanie Frappart, centre, Neuza Back, left, and Karen Díaz were praised by the Costa Rica coach Luis Suárez for succeeding in a "very sexist" sport

Frappart started playing football before turning to officiating at 13. She said last year: "I've always said judge me on my competence, not my gender."

She was the first woman to officiate at a men's World Cup qualifier in March and a Champions League tie in 2020. A year earlier she was the first woman to referee in a men's Uefa competition when Liverpool met Chelsea in the European Super Cup. Díaz has a degree in engineering and was first asked to referee when an official failed to arrive while she was working at a sports centre. Back has defied being grabbed by the neck by a pitch invader and being told by the prominent former Brazil player Jairzinho to "do the laundry".

I know the One and Only way to win, boasts singer

David Brown Doha

England's footballers hope to help Chesney Hawkes, the pop singer, back to the top of the charts after the one-hit-wonder claimed credit for the team's victory over Wales.

Hawkes sang *The One and Only* during half-time when the score was 0-0 and England went on to win 3-0, with two goals within minutes of his performance. After the match Hawkes posted a video on Instagram from inside the stadium in which he said: "0-0 at half-time. I go on. What happens? Three goals. The Chesney effect."

The singer said that he missed the goals because he was under the stands after his first stadium performance in 30 years. However, he said: "I must have inspired them. Gareth [Southgate, the England manager] called me this morning and said, 'We need you to do the team talk now,' so that's the next move," he joked.



Chesney Hawkes performs at the England-Wales clash

Hawkes said that the midfielder Declan Rice told him: "You are our lucky mascot now."

Rice admitted that he did not know who the singer was until meeting him after the match in Qatar — wearing a Rice shirt. Hawkes is a fan of West Ham, the player's Premier League club.

"I knew the song but I actually didn't know who he was," said Rice, who was born eight years after the song reached No 1. "I see him with the Rice shirt on and after the game, I went and spoke to him and give him a hug.

"That was really good. We're pals now. We've got to get him to the games.

"We obviously won comfortably the other night with him there so we'll get him singing *The One and Only* at every half-time. Hopefully we'll get him back to No 1 as well."

Hawkes, 51, was asked by the Qatar organisers three weeks ago to perform at England's final group stage game.

Sir Rod Stewart has said that he turned down almost £1 million to perform at the World Cup because of Qatar's human rights record.

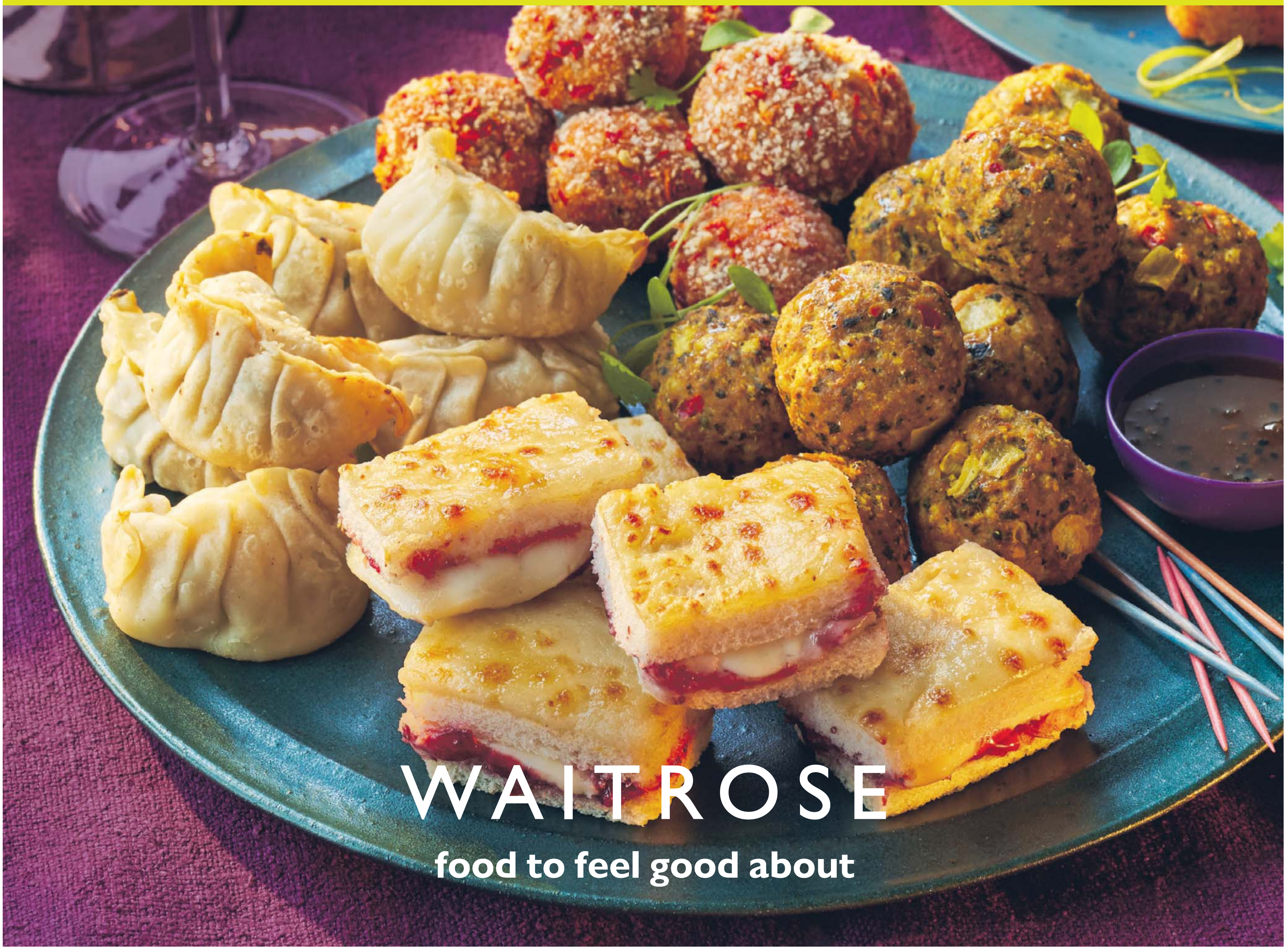
Time for a fairytale, Notebook, page 34

WAITROSE WAYS TO SPEND LESS

4 FOR 3

ON PARTY FOOD

Shop in store or at waitrose.com



Waitrose & Partners Christmas Mini Brie & Cranberry Toasties 8s, 245g, £5. £2.04/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas King Prawn Gyoza 240g, £7. £2.92/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Chicken Balti Inspired Baubles with Mango Chutney Glaze 335g, £6. £1.79/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Pork & 'Nduja Croquettes 12s, 300g, £5.50. £1.83/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Coquilles St Jacques 8s 135g, £6. £4.44/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Tomato & Mozzarella Arancini Bites 12s 240g, £5. £2.08/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Festive Vol-Au-Vents 12s, 180g, £6. £3.33/100g. Waitrose & Partners Christmas Sticky Beef Teriyaki Meatballs 12s 300g, £6. £2/100g. Selected stores and lines. Subject to availability. Cheapest item free. Offer ends 3 January 2023. Minimum online spend and delivery charges apply. Prices may vary in Channel Islands, Little Waitrose & Partners and concessions.

Science wises up to secrets of ancient owl carvings

Tom Whipple Science Editor

The owls' eyes stare, inscrutable. From hundreds of slates and engravings they look out across millennia.

Some of the images made in Spain during the Copper Age are expertly carved, some shoddily scratched into stone. But mystery has long surrounded what they represented. Luxury goods? The embodiment of ancient gods?

A new analysis argues they are something simpler: toys.

Scientists over the years have proposed numerous theories about the Iberian peninsula's ancient engravings dating from a thousand-year period around 3,000BC. Archaeologists have suggested they symbolised fertility goddesses or encoded, in their scratches, the genealogical records of a culture long gone.

Now, in a paper in the journal Scientific Reports, Spanish archaeologists suggest that they look like owls because they are owls and they were made by children, simply because children like owls. Rather than figurative symbols of divine power, they were, they say, "literally dolls".

To come to this conclusion, the scientists draw together several strands of evidence — both hi-tech and rather more low-tech. The first was to run images of the carvings through Google lens, a modern automated image classifier, to confirm they really were owls. Consistently, the computer concurred that they were.

The second was to compare them to drawings made of owls by children today. They found that the representations were similar — and so was the level of skill displayed, depending on the age of the child. Or, as they put it in the scientific paper: "There is a progression related to age in the owliness of the depictions."

As we might expect with owls, the images face us. One of the oddities of owls is that in every culture, in every time period, people have drawn them face-on. This is even the case with formal birdwatching books.

The scientists argue in the journal that this is not unrelated to why we find them attractive.

"Owls are unique among birds due to their large heads and frontally placed eyes. Only for this, they are the most anthropomorphic of all birds, and perhaps of all animals if we exclude our closest relatives, the apes.

"A consequence of the owls' human-like shape is that they are depicted differently to all other birds, and in fact other animals, from the dawn of art in Paleolithic parietal manifestations to today."

Many of the engravings have holes at the top, and it had been suggested that these were for putting string through to carry them. But an absence of wear and tear implied a different interpretation, the scientists said. The researchers, from Estación Biológica de Doñana in Seville, showed that if instead you poked owl feathers through them, you made a cute little tufty owl.

The final piece of evidence they drew upon was the fact that the owl makers themselves didn't seem overly to value the owls. They weren't traded, unlike other high-value goods. They didn't use expensive materials such as ivory, preferred for some carvings. And despite the skill found in other regional crafts, many just weren't that good.

"Applying Occam's Razor [the principle that the simplest explanation is the most likely], our hypothesis is simpler than the alternative of resorting to a complex symbolic world with fertility goddesses represented by idols, or heraldic mnemonic devices," the researchers say.

People just like owls.



An owl carved in slate may have been an ancient plaything

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Jungle fever grabs Rayner

Matt Hancock's midlife crisis almost had an unexpected effect. Presenting the Political Cartoon of the Year Awards, Angela Rayner said the former health secretary agreeing to be doused in slime in Australia nearly changed her mind about those she once charmingly called scum. "His appearance on *I'm a Celebrity* is the closest I have ever come to voting Tory," Labour's deputy leader said. Rayner, below, was on her best behaviour but feared for how coarser souls might end their evenings after downing buckets of warm white wine. As she handed out a very sturdy-looking glass trophy to one inky-fingered caricaturist, she remarked: "Don't hit anyone with it because my fingerprints are all over it."

Jacob Rees-Mogg demurred when Rayner described him at the awards as "member for the 19th century". Calling her a "frightful modernist", the Tory said the 18th century was his natural home. He also expressed sympathy for cartoonists today (I expect he means emerging talent like Hogarth and Gillray). "You start drawing a politician in the morning," he said, "and discover by lunchtime that he has changed jobs."

PHANTOM HAUNTS BROADWAY

A Museum of Broadway opened in New York last week and has already had to alter one of its exhibits. Not after a sensitive millennial had a fit, though some may find it problematic that the road was once called the Great White Way (coined in 1880 to celebrate its lights), but because Andrew Lloyd Webber's biggest show refuses to leave. The museum has a chandelier made by Ulli Böhmelmann from 13,917 crystals, one for every performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* from its opening in 1988 to its planned departure next February. Except this week it was announced that *Phantom* will stay a bit longer. Böhmelmann says he will just have to add more crystals.



BISHOP'S CHECKMATE

The Archbishop of Canterbury has gone to Kyiv, accompanied by the Right Rev Robert Innes, the Bishop in Europe, who oversees Anglican flocks on the Continent and beyond. His see spreads from Morocco to Mongolia, although the grand title may rankle with some. Justin Welby told Ukrainian religious leaders that Pope John XXIII told one of Bishop Robert's predecessors: "I understand I live in your diocese." Well, he was merely Bishop of Rome.

Bill Nighy is being talked up for an Oscar after impressing critics with his role in Living, *a film about terminal illness. He is not letting it go to his head. Asked at a Screen Actors Guild event how he approached the role, Nighy said: "Pretty much as I approach anything. Anxiously, with paranoia and insecurity."*

BUN IN THE OVEN

Ladies-in-waiting can be naive. Never mind Lady Susan Hussey, Charles Moore writes in *The Spectator* about Frances Campbell-Preston, who served the Queen Mother and died last week at 104. At finishing school in Paris she liked to attend tea dances with French officers but after growing rather plump decided she must be pregnant, believing this could happen if you were touched by a man, especially a Frenchman. Her parents sent her to a doctor, who found that she was not *enceinte*, merely fond of Parisian pastries. Marriage in 1938 taught her where babies really come from. Storks, *naturellement.*

PATRICK KIDD




TUDOR
#BORN TODARE
What is it that drives someone to greatness? To take on the unknown, venture into the unseen and dare all? This is the spirit that gave birth to TUDOR. This is the spirit embodied by every TUDOR Watch. Some are born to follow. Others are born to dare.
39 millimetre case in 925 silver
Snowflake hands A hallmark of TUDOR divers' watches since 1969
Manufacture calibre MT5400 with 70-hour "weekend-proof" power-reserve, silicon hair-spring and COSC-certification
Five-year transferable guarantee with no registration or periodic maintenance checks required
BLACK BAY FIFTY-EIGHT 925

Sympathetic ear online was lockdown lifesaver

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

When Ashley Hargreaves came close to killing himself an advert popped up on his phone that saved his life.

Ashley, 30, a chef for 12 years, was struggling to provide for his young family as he was put on furlough for the third time during the pandemic, losing a significant income from tips, while his partner had lost her wage on maternity leave and their landlord had raised their rent.

"It was a gradual build-up until things got too much for me," he said. "One day I thought that was it. That night was a complete blur, there was so much going on in my head. I contemplated taking my own life.

"Luckily, I didn't and then that weird thing happened that your phone does when it pops up with an advert, and CALM came up on Instagram."

The Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), a suicide prevention charity chosen for The Times and Sunday Times Christmas Appeal this year, runs a helpline and web chat service from 5pm to midnight every day of the year.

About 125 lives are lost every week to suicide in the UK, with 75 per cent of those being men. Suicide is the biggest killer of men under the age of 45.

After coming close to taking his own life, Ashley — who lives in Plymouth with his partner Nic, ten-year-old son Noah and daughter Parker, aged two — retreated to his mother's house for a few weeks and started using the charity's web chat. "I was trying to get time to think and then seeing the advert pop up, it gave me the option to talk about all this stuff," he said.

WAYNE PERRY FOR THE TIMES



Ashley Hargreaves says his local gym offers "a bit of time for myself to unwind"

"I didn't speak to my partner or mum about it for fear of being judged: are they going to think differently of me, or not take me seriously? Having CALM took that away and I had nothing to lose by contacting them.

"No one knew what was going on. I was very closed up about it all. Knowing I could unload and vent to them and they would know where I was coming from, it was massive."

It costs the charity £8 to answer a potentially lifesaving call and last year they answered more than 157,000 calls and web chats, with more than 1.6 million messages sent and received online. Ashley has only ever used the web chat service, which like the helpline is manned only by paid staff.

"Until recently I found it very difficult to speak about it, especially face to face. It's very difficult," Ashley said.

"The best thing for me was to just write everything out that I am feeling and send it. It makes you understand it a little more and you start to think about things you haven't thought about before. The people at CALM have been fantastic. I don't know how to put it into words. It's giving you that better outlook on it. They get you trying to focus on the good things.

"It was all about opening up the avenues of what was causing these issues: the job I was in at the time, the lockdowns. The job was the major thing but the people at CALM were saying, 'Try working out what the bad things are and try these different avenues'."

Ashley used the service throughout February last year and the staff helped him evaluate his life and what he needed to feel fulfilled and happy again. He found a new job, outside the punishing, antisocial hours of the hospitality trade, is moving house and recently got engaged to Nic.

"If you told me that things would be how they are now, I would have laughed at you back then," he said.

A crucial part of his recovery has been getting back to McCaulay's Gym.

"I took the gym for granted before the lockdowns," Ashley said. "The gym lent me some equipment in the third lockdown and I would drive to a car park and train for a couple of hours a couple of times a week. The gym is a bit of time for myself to unwind and now a lot of people at the gym know about my story and will come up and speak to me, because they know I can relate."

Ashley said that he now looks at people differently. "Before all this, if someone was in a bad mood or snippy I wouldn't say anything but I pick up on it a lot more now and I ask them if they are good. If I can be that help for somebody then that is all I can hope for."

To donate

Call 0151 284 2336, go to **thetimes.co.uk/christmasappeal** or use the QR code below



Calls are charged at normal landline rate. Charges from other networks may vary. Donations will be administered by the Charities Trust on behalf of the chosen charities. Donations may be refunded only in exceptional circumstances. Ts&Cs apply

Something special for everyone

LEGO® Santa's Visit



Scan to shop

Exclusive to John Lewis and The LEGO® Group

£89.99

JOHN LEWIS
for all life's moments

Product, price and availability are correct at time of going to press but may change and are subject to availability.


Extraordinary
Pyjama Tops
From
12.50
extraordinary
CHRISTMAS
George.
In-store | Online | App

Tired doctor who drove into family is jailed

John Reynolds

A junior doctor who "fell asleep" at the wheel of his car after a 12-hour shift and crashed into women and children waiting at a pedestrian crossing has been jailed.

James Celaire, 25, admitted to police that he should not have driven home after his shift as his "eyes were going" and should have instead slept in staff accommodation at the hospital.

He drove into a mother and her two sons, aged four and six, as they waited at a zebra crossing on their way to school in Bradford on December 9, 2020. He also hit a woman who was waiting at the crossing after dropping off her daughter at school. The woman was flung into a tree by the impact.

One of the women had to have a leg amputated, as well as suffering other injuries. The other victims had serious fractures.

Celaire, who pleaded guilty to four offences of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, was jailed for two years and four months.

He was driving home when he left a line of cars and accelerated on the wrong side of the road, Bradford crown court was told.

Sarah Barlow, in mitigation, said it was "overwhelmingly likely" that he had briefly fallen asleep after finishing his shift at Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Chloe Fairley, for the prosecution, said that one of the mothers thought the Suzuki driver was "an impatient bad boy racer".

The woman who had her leg amputated was also left with multiple facial fractures. She told the court that her life had changed for ever that day.

"This accident has turned my life upside down," she said, adding: "I don't want my children to think they will have to look after me when they get older. My heart is broken."

She said that she was unsure if she would ever be able to work again. Her six-year-old son had a skull fracture and a fractured left leg, which was in a frame for three months.

Her four-year-old child had a fractured left tibia. Both children may need further operations in future, the court was told.

The second woman sustained a fractured leg and shoulder injuries. Her son told the court that his mother wondered if she would ever feel comfortable crossing a road again.

Barlow conceded that the injuries had devastating effects, and said that Celaire, from Leeds, was "deeply and genuinely horrified" by what had happened. He told his probation officer that he had not taken any time out before starting his foundation year of working as a junior doctor.



A mother and her two sons and another woman were badly hurt at the crossing

Celaire had no previous convictions and character references showed that he was a man of exemplary good character.

Barlow also said that Celaire had returned to work, despite knowing that his career could be brought to an end by the accident.

Judge Jonathan Rose noted that Celaire was a man of previously impeccable character and was genuinely remorseful, but sentenced him to be jailed.

DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



Titanic struggles Kate Winslet stops by for a photocall yesterday for the Channel 4 drama I Am Ruth about the mental health crisis affecting young people, which will be broadcast next Thursday. She stars with her daughter Mia Threapleton

Builder guilty of two murders

Jaya Narain

A builder who told a friend he was a "psychopath with a conscience" is facing a full life sentence after he was convicted of murdering two female sex workers six months apart.

Mark Brown, 41, was found guilty of killing Alexandra Morgan, 34, and Leah Ware, 33, at a remote farm and burning their bodies in an oil drum. The pair disappeared in Hastings, East Sussex, in May and November last year. Both women had been working as escorts and Brown contacted them through an adult website.

Brown had denied murdering them and said Morgan, a mother of two, had slipped on some tools in his workshop and hit her head. He claimed Ware, a mother of three, had gone off with Travellers and was still alive and well.

But yesterday a jury of ten men and two women at Hove crown court convicted him of both murders.

Judge Nicholas Hilliard said that if Brown revealed what he had done with Ware's body he would take that into account in sentencing on January 13, but said Brown was looking at a minimum starting sentence for the two murders of 30 years.

The court was told that although Brown, of St Leonards-on-Sea, was a family man with three sons, he was persistently unfaithful to his partner, using Little Bridge Farm on the outskirts of Hastings to meet escorts.





Representative Example	Duration of Agreement	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Device Cash Price	Airtime Plan today to March 2023	Airtime Plan April 2023 – March 2024	Airtime Plan April 2024 – March 2025
Google Pixel 7	36 Months	£30	£3.58	£128.76	£158.76	0%	0%	£158.76	£8	£24 + RPI% Announced in Feb 2021 = Price A	Price A + RPI% Announced in Feb 2022

***Each year your Airtime Plan will be increased by the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation announced in February plus 3.9%. If RPI is negative, we'll only apply the 3.9%. You'll see this increase on your April 2023 bill onwards. See o2.co.uk/prices.** £3.58 Device Plan for 36 months and £8 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. **Google Pixel 7 128GB:** £400 saving consists of £40 discount applied to Device Plan (total cost of device was £599 now £559) and further £360 saving achieved by £10 per month discount on the 2GB, 5GB 20GB & 150GB Airtime Plans over 36 months. Offer ends 7th Dec 2022. **O2 Recycle, get up to £390.24:** Purchase the Google Pixel 7 or Google Pixel 7 Pro directly from O2 between 06.10.22 and 28.12.22 and trade in your old device with O2 Recycle to claim up to £390.24. £390.24 consists of £100 enhanced recycle value and £290.24 trade in value. £290.24 trade in value based on payable amount on all traded in device models between Dec 2020 and Nov 2021. **O2 Recycle:** Your device must pass our checklist. The value of your trade in will depend on the model and condition. Terms apply see https://www.o2.co.uk/termsandconditions/mobile/o2recycle. **O2 Refresh custom plans:** Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months (excludes selected pocket hotspot and dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. There may be an upfront cost. You need a monthly rolling Airtime Plan as long as you have a Device Plan. Pay off your Device Plan at any time and you can choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade or leave. If your Airtime Plan ends for any reason you will need to pay your Device Plan in full. Devices subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, SL1 4DX. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms



ORIENT EXPRESS/INSTAGRAM



A trip back in time as Orient Express revives luxury era

Adorned with vintage mahogany and fitted out with the finest French glasswork, the presidential suite of the modernised Orient Express is as luxurious as the original (Ali Mitib writes).

Accor, the French hotel group, is restoring 17 carriages dating back to the 1920s under the watchful eye of Maxime d'Angeac, a French architect best known for restoration and decoration projects for fashion houses such as Hermès and Guerlain.

The Paris to Istanbul service has been synonymous with luxury rail travel since its launch in 1883. It achieved fame after Agatha Christie published *Murder on the Orient Express* in 1934.

Accor is planning to run its train service from Paris to Istanbul in 2025. While the previous long-distance service ended in 1977, a reduced version continued to run to Bucharest and Vienna before being further curtailed in 2007 to travel from Strasbourg to Vienna. The service shut in 2009. A separate private service runs from London to Venice and other cities, operated by the Belmond hotel chain.

Accor's presidential suite is adorned with a gas fireplace and glass panels designed by Lalique, the French glassmaker founded in 1888. "It is a suite where travellers can experience history, extreme luxury and ultimate comfort all at once," D'Angeac said.



The presidential suite of the Accor train boasts furnishings by renowned craftsmen. Guards also greet passengers, left, on trains run by Belmond

New minerals discovered in desert meteorite

Tom Whipple Science Editor

The stone had always looked out of place: 15 tonnes of rock impudently poking out of a flat desert. No one knew how long it had been there. They did know that for generations camel herders had used it to sharpen their knives.

Now we also know that when they did, they were hammering against minerals never before seen in nature.

The El Ali meteorite, found in Somalia, is the ninth largest in the world. A new analysis shows it is special for more than merely its size. Contained within it are compounds that until now have only been made in a laboratory.

The discovery came after Chris Herd, from the University of Alberta, was sent a sliver of the meteorite to analyse and he found unusual crystal structures. His colleagues identified them as compounds of iron, oxygen and phosphorus. Two of the compounds were combinations that do not exist on Earth.

Herd said: "I do feel very fortunate that I happened to stumble on it — we didn't go in looking for new minerals."

They have named one of the minerals elaliite, after where the meteorite landed, and the other elkinstantonite, after Lindy Elkins-Tanton, vice-president of the Arizona State University Interplanetary Initiative. The team want to explore what the minerals tell them about the meteorite — believed to be on the market in China — and whether a use can be found for them.



Product, price and availability are correct at time of going to press but may change and are subject to availability. *T&Cs apply.


From Director CHRIS SMITH and Producer ROBERT DOWNEY JR.
A NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY
"Sr."
Like father.
Like son.
Like no other.
"Unexpectedly Revealing"
— PETER DEBRUGE, VARIETY
"A poignant tribute to a filmmaking family"
— STEPHEN FARBER,
OFFICIAL SELECTION Telluride Film Festival 2022
New York Film Festival 60 2022 Official Selection
AFI FEST OFFICIAL SELECTION
ONLY ON NETFLIX | NOW PLAYING

Ukraine conflict may drag on for years, says Welby

Kaya Burgess
Religious Affairs Correspondent, Kyiv

There is a real fear that the war between Russia and Ukraine will drag on for decades like the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Archbishop of Canterbury said in Kyiv yesterday.

The Most Rev Justin Welby had to take cover in a bomb shelter yesterday after air-raid sirens sounded across Ukraine when Russian planes with missile-carrying capability were reported to have taken off in Belarus.

The Times accompanied Welby and Ukrainian religious leaders to a bunker in a converted car park two floors beneath a Kyiv hotel, where the archbishop said: "It is a great horror and disgrace, almost 80 years after the end of the Second World War, that a European country has air-raid warnings."

After the all-clear sounded, Welby said of the war in Ukraine: "How long will it last? Is it like some of the wars we have seen which have lasted, as between India and Pakistan, a year or 18 months? Is it like the Second World War — six years?

"Or is it what people call a 'frozen' war, which has moments of great activity, moments of relative calm but not peace, and like the Middle East could last 60, 70, 80 years?"

Asked if the comparison with the Israel-Palestine conflict, made by other religious leaders during his visit, was apt, he said: "I think it's a very real and very reasonable fear … I think western countries need to realise they will have to show long-term resilience."

Welby said pressuring Ukraine to surrender or give in to Russian terms would be as "immoral" as it was to carve up Czechoslovakia to appease Hitler in 1938.

Ukrainian church leaders told Welby yesterday that they feared another Russian-caused genocide, following the man-made Holodomor famine of the 1930s, but this time caused by Russian strikes on energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

Welby was shown a video purportedly showing a Russian priest blessing bullets as they were loaded into Russian guns for use in Ukraine. He said: "I am horrified. That is a terrible blasphemy."

He said his message to Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox church and a supporter of President Putin and the Russian invasion, was that "the duty of Christian leaders is to seek peace and pursue it".

The archbishop called on people in Britain to send money or materials to support Ukraine if they were able to, and urged people to cook a Christmas meal for Ukrainian refugees staying nearby, to "enable them to have a Christmas where they won't feel quite as lonely and take some weight off the people in whose house they are living".

Welby said he did not regret calling Putin's invasion an "act of evil" in February and said that even if the war ended soon, it could take generations to repair the damage and trauma.

He also said Boris Johnson's stance on Ukraine was "one of the things he got stunningly right" and said: "Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak have followed his example and so has Keir Starmer. If Labour come into office at some point, I don't anticipate any change of policy at all. They all realise … we have to support Ukraine clearly and well. The challenges and implications of that are enormous … but are we gearing up for the ultra long-term?" He added that it was "very positive" that Britain had a "healthy political atmosphere again" after recent turmoil.

Welby will visit bomb-damaged areas near Kyiv today on the final day of his trip to Ukraine.

Germany wants to restore pre-Ukraine war order with Russia, page 38

Army's ammunition would last for only a week of war

George Grylls

The British Army would run out of ammunition in a week if it was forced to fight a conflict like the war in Ukraine, a report has warned.

A study of the war published by the Royal United Services Institute found that Britain's ammunition stockpiles were "woefully deficient".

The report, whose authors include senior Ukrainian military figures, praised the professionalism of the British Army and its ability to quickly train forces, meaning it could rapidly expand in size in the event of an all-out war.

But it said that the army lacked the level of firepower that enabled Ukraine to defend Kyiv and argued that other Nato allies could not be relied upon to make up the shortfall because they too had underspent on ammunition.

"The oft-cited refrain of the UK Ministry of Defence that these deficiencies are not a problem because the UK fights alongside Nato allies would be more credible if the situation were much better among any of the UK's European allies. It is not, except in Finland," the report said.

At the height of fighting in the Donbas, Russia was using more ammunition in two days than Britain has in its entire stockpiles, the authors found.

At Ukrainian levels of firing, Britain would run out of ammunition in a week. Ukrainian officials said that they were firing about 5,000 to 6,000 artillery rounds a day in the summer, equating to 35,000 to 42,000 a week.

Britain also lacked air defence capabilities, the authors said.

Francis Tusa, a defence analyst, said that the problem of depleted British stockpiles was decades-old and blamed Treasury rules that penalise departments for holding spare stock.

"From the Treasury's point of view, holding stock is wrong. But we need to hold six months' worth of ammo in case we get into a serious war."

A defence source said the report was "based on assumptions", adding: "Given that ammunition levels are highly classified, this report is misleading.

"The war in Ukraine is an example of Soviet doctrine which uses vast quantities of artillery. We do not, nor ever have, used artillery in such methods, so to try and draw such conclusions is misleading."

Arming Kyiv leaves Europe short, page 39

DENNIS GENTLES/SOLENT NEWS



By a whisker Sea lions in the Forth Estuary warn each other off from their spots on the crowded shore to protect their pups



*Each April your monthly charge will increase by up to December's CPI rate + 3.9%. Price includes £5 monthly discount for paying by a recurring method. Saving of £336 based on total cost of plan over 24 months versus previous price of equivalent plan between 01/11/2022 and 22/11/2022. Based on analysis by Ookla® of Speedtest Intelligence® data for Q1-Q2 2022. Ookla trademarks used under license and reprinted with permission. Visit speedtest.net/awards/fastest-5g

Swan-like dinosaur loved a fish supper

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Predatory dinosaurs with a long swan-like neck once swam through the water like penguins, a newly discovered fossil has revealed.

Natovenator polydontus — the name means "swimming hunter with many teeth" — was a carnivore that lived in what is now Mongolia during the Upper Cretaceous period, about 70 million years ago.

About as big as a chicken, it had flipper-like arms a little like the wings of a penguin or puffin and a slender torpedo-shaped body. It would have been covered in feathers but is not thought to have flown. It appears to have survived by catching small fish in its jaw, which were equipped with an unusually large number of teeth.

Professor Steve Brusatte, of the University of Edinburgh, who was not involved in the study, said the fossil opened up the possibility that some dinosaurs were more at home in the water than has been thought.

"Dinosaurs were astoundingly diverse," he said. "During their 150 million years of evolution they blossomed into many species of such astounding variety — from giants bigger than jet planes to sprinters, to diggers, to feathery ones that could glide and fly.

"But there is one thing that dinosaurs seemingly never did, which is go fully into the water and turn into streamlined swimmers like whales or dolphins. The new discovery of natovenator challenges this."

The newly described dinosaur is a member of the dromaeosauridae family, which also includes the velociraptor of the *Jurassic Park* films. Another skeleton found in Mongolia and reported in 2017, of a turkey-sized creature called halszkaraptor, had hinted that there were dinosaurs that resembled modern waterfowl. Halszkaraptor also had a long, elegant neck and flipper-like arms, as well as velociraptor-style sickle claws. However, its skeleton was frustratingly incomplete.

The natovenator specimen provides a much fuller picture, with the authors of a study published in the journal Communications Biology saying it provides "the first compelling evidence of a streamlined body", suitable for swimming, in a therapod dinosaur, a group that also includes *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

"It's a fantastic new specimen of something rare and weird, which makes it really important," Dr David Hone, of Queen Mary University of London, who reviewed the paper before its publication today, said. Its long neck would have made it look quite rather like a modern great crested grebe, he added.

Its remains were unearthed in Omnogovi Province in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. The fossilised skeleton includes the skull, spinal column, ribs, one forelimb and the remains of two back legs.

YUSIK CHOI



Natovenator polydontus, or "swimming hunter with many teeth", was the size of a chicken and had a swan-like neck but swam like a penguin, with short wings

'No apology' for switch in arts funding

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

Artists in Blackburn deserve the same opportunity as those in London, a culture minister has said, adding that he did not understand the problem with moving arts funding out of the capital.

Stuart Andrew said London still received the "lion's share" of Arts Council England funding despite the recent withdrawal of English National Opera's (ENO) entire £12.6 million annual grant and the pulling of subsidy from many of London's powerhouse theatres.

"I make no apology for seeing areas like Blackburn, that has never received any [Arts Council England] funding and now four projects are receiving funding," Andrew told a Commons committee. "Why can't talented artists in Blackburn get the same access to the those opportunities as artists in London?" The Arts Council was an "arms-length body", he said, adding that ministers had "pushed" it to increase its period of transition funding for organisations that are being pushed out of its funding regime.

Julian Knight, chairman of the digital, culture, media and sport committee, said moving money out of London was long-overdue but that in "correcting this imbalance", the Arts Council needed to be careful not to "potentially wreck established institutions such as the ENO". He added: "A soft landing is what is needed here."







SIMON CZAPP/SOLENT NEWS

The yew at All Saints' church, left, in Farringdon, Hampshire, predates the Roman invasion and is one of Britain's oldest trees

Villagers save ancient yew in Austen country

The ancient, once sacred yew tree in the grounds of All Saints' church predates the Roman invasion and Jane Austen, who as a resident of nearby Chawton was probably a regular visitor (Debbie White writes). But with its hollowed trunk and decrepit condition the 3,000 year-old tree in the Hampshire village of Farringdon was at risk of toppling over without immediate and expensive intervention.

In order to preserve their tree, which is classified as "ancient exceptional", residents and churchgoers were told they needed £13,000 to get it a brace.

After a five-year campaign, during which residents used planks of wood to prop up branches, they have finally raised the money needed to keep the tree standing.

The system features a series of adjustable high tensile wires attached to the 60ft high yew with cables anchored into the ground to take the weight off the tree, which measures 30ft 6ins at its narrowest point of the trunk.

Bryan Orchard of the All Saints parochial church council, said the tree was special as, apart from its age, it has been "written about in many books and journals" and was likely to have been visited by Austen.

The English yew tree is one of Britain's oldest native species and was held sacred in pre-Christian times.

Fortunately, the tree grows inside the South Downs National Park "which gives it a degree of protection".

Although it had "fallen apart at the base, it is still very healthy with lots of new growth".

The yew had become unstable as the "trunk has been hollow for at least 300 years: we know this as it was written about in 1781", said Orchard. Now though, he said, "cables anchored into the ground take the weight of the tree from one side of it, so it's not leaning over".

£120k for gay couple after months of workplace slurs

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Two gay restaurant workers have been awarded £120,000 after colleagues made homophobic comments and a boss told one that as he was from a mafia family he could have him killed.

Tim Jeurninck and his husband Marco Scatena told an employment tribunal that they were "bullied for months on end" over their sexuality with "constant slurs" while working at an Italian restaurant in London.

In one incident, when a restaurant director complained about a dirty glass, he said of homosexuals: "I thought you people knew how to clean better."

And when Jeurninck complained, his boss warned him that he was from a mafia family and suggested he could have the waiter killed.

Scatena – who was a manager and part owner of Piatto in Battersea – said that he received threats of violence from fellow directors as well as unfounded accusations that he had been stealing from the till.

After both men resigned, they sued Piatto for sexual orientation discrimination – and a tribunal has now backed the claim, finding that the directors had tried to force Scatena out of the business.

The panel concluded that there was "more than enough evidence" to suggest the directors' actions were motivated by homophobia.

Jeurninck – who worked as a waiter – and Scatena were awarded £41,732 and £83,102 respectively.

The tribunal, held in south London, was told that Vincenzo Cugno Garrano, a Piatto director, had approached Scatena about opening a restaurant together.

Scatena invested all his own savings plus loans from a bank and from his husband's parents, to make him a 30 per cent shareholder in the restaurant, which opened in 2018. But despite his status as one of four directors, the panel heard that Scatena never received a dividend payment.

Jeurninck and Scatena, who married in 2017, began working at Piatto soon after the restaurant opened – but within a matter of months the couple were subjected to homophobic "name-calling". The tribunal heard that in one incident, another director, Fabio Corona, "screamed" for Jeurninck, calling him a "waitress" and laughing.

The panel accepted that when Jeurninck protested, one of Corona's friends proceeded to call him a "f****** faggot" in Italian, adding: "Your waitress is very rude."

It emerged in evidence that Cugno Garrano called Jeurninck a variety of derogatory terms in Italian that related to his sexual orientation.

Jeurninck said that on another occasion Cugno Garrano screamed "an entire monologue" that included threats by saying that his family in Italy "were the Mafia" and "could harm" his husband's family.

A colleague told the tribunal she heard Cugno Garrano "exclusively" speaking Italian to exclude Jeurninck – who is Dutch – and "constantly" referred to him by homophobic "slurs".

In his ruling, Alexander Green, the employment judge, said that as well as being wrongfully dismissed the couple had been directly discriminated against because of their sexuality.

New Indiana Jones film dials up drama

Andrew Vaux

The title of the next Indiana Jones film, which will bring the octogenarian Harrison Ford back to cinema screens in the title role after 15 years, has been unveiled by its producers.

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny will hit cinemas on June 30 next year — more than 40 years after Ford first played the professor of archaeology in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981).

A promotional trailer features action sequences including Ford, 80, riding a horse through New York and on to the subway tracks — a scene believed to have been filmed in Glasgow after a body double was seen there last year. Other scenes show a younger, de-aged Jones. The film is set during the US-Soviet space race in 1969, and was shot in England, Scotland, Italy and Morocco.

In the trailer, Jones says: "I miss the sea. I miss waking up every morning wondering what wonderful adventure the new day will bring to us. I don't believe in magic, but a few times in my life I've seen things, things I can't explain. And I've come to believe it's not so much what you believe, it's how hard you believe it."



Harrison Ford makes his first appearance as Indiana Jones for 15 years

The film — which follows *Indiana Jones and the Temple Of Doom* (1984); *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) and *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (2008) — is directed by James Mangold, who co-wrote the script with Jez Butterworth and John-Henry Butterworth.

It is the first film in the series not directed by Steven Spielberg, who instead serves as a producer.



Ends: 31.01.23. 3x data offer: For UK use and zone A only. Extra data not included in Total Rollover. Auto renews for up to three BVBs provided your BVB has enough credit. When fourth BVB is renewed, data will return to previous allowance. Roaming in Zone A: 25GB fair use applies. For terms & to find out how you can roam visit: www.vodafone.co.uk/payg


nectar
Save on leeks, lamps and lots more
Swap 2,000 points on eBay
Worth at least £10
Personalised discounts on groceries at Sainsbury's
Save £3.90 /week*
Collect 600 bonus points in the app at Sainsbury's
Worth at least £3/week**
Find more at nectar.com/save
Sainsbury's
ebay
*Saving is based on the average savings offered to customers per week from 20 May – 9 June 2022 with My Nectar Prices being used once. My Nectar Prices available in store with Smartshop. Nectar and Smartshop registration required. My Nectar Prices vary per person. Exclusions apply. See nectar.com/mynectarprices for full terms **The bonus points are based on 2.6mil customers who received Sainsbury's weekly offers via Digital Nectar totalling over 600 bonus points in the week 19-26 Oct 2022.

Navy's first crewless submarine to guard UK's undersea lifelines

George Grylls

The Royal Navy is to buy a submarine the size of a double-decker bus to protect Britain's strategically vital underwater cables.

The autonomous vessel, which can withstand pressures at extreme depths, will be the first uncrewed submarine in the British fleet. Costing £15.4 million, the Cetus is named after the mythological sea monster slain by Perseus. Admiral Sir Ben Key, the first sea lord, said it would help the UK to "dominate the underwater battlespace".

The battery-powered drone will be able to cover up to 1,000 miles in a single mission — more with the addition of extra batteries — and has been purchased to strengthen the navy's ability to protect underwater infrastructure. It will be delivered to the navy in two years' time.

It comes amid heightened concern about western vulnerability to stealth attacks on the cables and pipelines that crisscross the ocean floors, carrying telephone and internet connections to the rest of the world and electricity and gas from the Continent.

The Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, which carry natural gas from Russia to Germany, were damaged by explosions in September amid suspicions of Kremlin involvement. Russia blamed the Royal Navy for the attacks — something that was dismissed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as "false claims on an epic scale". Swedish prosecutors found traces of explosives at the scene in the Baltic Sea and have concluded that the pipelines were sabotaged.

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, said Britain needed to invest in Cetus because of the risks posed by hostile powers.

"In order to meet the growing threats to our underwater infrastructure, the Royal Navy needs to be ahead of the competition with cutting-edge capabilities," he said. In October Wallace announced the purchase of two multi-role ocean surveillance ships, which will also protect critical national infrastructure and are due to be operational next year.

The navy already has crewless mine-hunting capabilities and is testing driverless Pacific 24 sea boats.

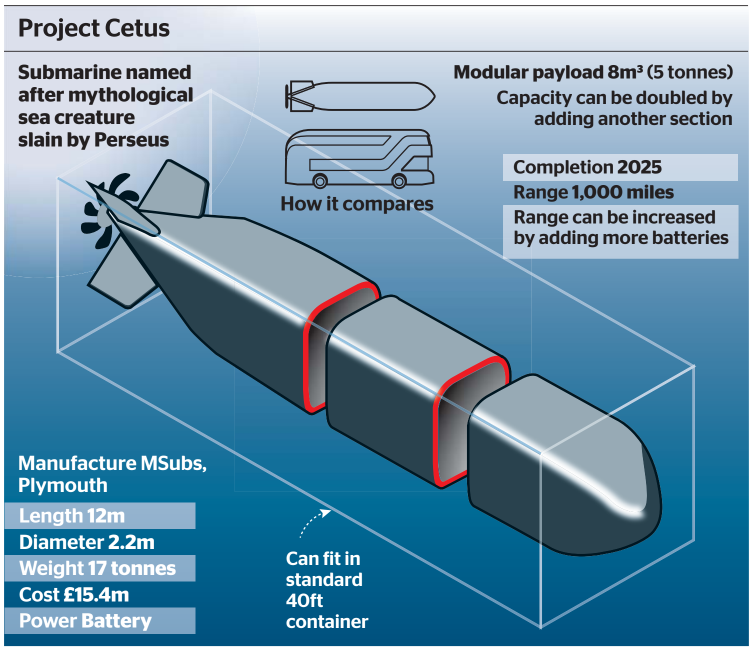
The Cetus is the first autonomous submarine, however, and will be small enough to be transported in a shipping container. Weighing 17 tonnes, the 12m vessel will be designed and built by MSubs in Plymouth.

Key said: "This extra large autonomous underwater vehicle is a capability step-change in our mission to dominate the underwater battlespace. And I am delighted that the project is able to support a small, innovative UK company which is at the cutting edge of this sector."

The navy is facing criticism over its recent decision to award a £1.6 billion contract to a consortium led by a state-owned Spanish shipyard.

Construction of the fleet solid support ships will take place in Belfast, Devon and Cadiz in southwest Spain.

Labour has described the contract as a "stab in the back" for British workers after the MoD snubbed a rival consortium that was fronted by British companies.



Biggest fall in house prices for two years

Tom Howard

House prices fell in November at a pace not seen since early in the pandemic as elevated mortgage rates triggered by the mini-budget fiasco deterred buyers.

The average price of a house in the UK fell 1.4 per cent to £263,788 last month compared with the previous month, according to the latest house price index from Nationwide.

There has not been a larger monthly fall since June 2020, when the market was starting to reopen after the first lockdown. The decline was much greater than had been expected.

Prices remain 4.4 per cent above where they were this time last year, but that is the slowest annual growth since August 2020. In the post-pandemic peak in the spring this year, annual house price inflation was above 14 per cent. Houses are still, on average, worth about the same as they were in February and March, even though prices have fallen for three months in a row.

Nationwide's data chimes with the predictions of economists and estate agents, most of whom agree that the record highs that house prices achieved this summer are unsustainable now that mortgage rates have risen sharply. The consensus seems to be that prices will fall by about 5 to 10 per cent next year, although some, such as analysts at Credit Suisse, think that a drop of 15 per cent is possible.

Bricks & Mortar, pullout

We need the judiciary to help us put an end to

'the biggest stain on our justice system'

This is how former Justice Secretary, Ken Clarke, and former Supreme Court Justice, Lord Brown, described IPP sentences (Imprisonment for Public Protection).

Intended to rehabilitate c. 900 of the most dangerous offenders, they were actually given to 8,711 people for 153 different offences, including theft. Although ruled as illegal in 2012 by the European Court of Human Rights, there are some 6,000 people still living under the stain of indefinite imprisonment today.

IPP sentences are an erosion of justice, fairness and due process. Prisoners harm themselves at a higher rate than the general population and 74 have killed themselves in prison. The toll on the mental health of their families and children is massive.

The Justice Committee report just published said the sentence is 'irredeemably flawed'. We need the judiciary and public to support us in fighting this injustice now.

You can do this by writing to the Secretary of State, writing to your MP, speaking out publicly and informing your political contacts.

Scan here to read more

UNGRIPP is a campaigning and awareness organisation dedicated to changing the IPP sentence.
To see our work and how to get involved, visit us at www.ungripp.com and follow us on Twitter @UNGRIPP

UNGRIPP

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
BEST PLACES TO
STAY
2023



Ding, ding.

Discover our top 100 British hotels.

Visit thetimes.co.uk/bestplacestostay
or pick up the newspaper on Sunday.

Harry and Meghan are raising the stakes. Again
Hilary Rose
Page 34

Comment

Sunak aims to kill strikes with sweet reason

Faced with an advent calendar of industrial action, PM seeks to avoid confrontation and wait for the public to grow weary

James Forsyth



@JGFORSYTH

Nurses, ambulance drivers, postmen: the list of people voting to strike grows by the day. It is set to be a nightmare advent calendar, with the country waking up each morning to news of a fresh day of industrial action. Getting home for Christmas, sending cards, falling ill — all have just become far more hazardous activities. And all adding to the dangerous sense of a country where too many things are not working.

Ministers are already struggling with post-lockdown backlogs in public services and the strikes will exacerbate these. One in 12 trains on Avanti West Coast is being cancelled with no notice. Ambulance response times are the longest since these records started being kept five years ago. According to the British Heart Foundation, such delays add up to 230 avoidable deaths every week.

Part of Rishi Sunak's appeal is his competence. Voters remember that he created the furlough, and it worked. Maintaining that reputation requires ensuring the country continues to function even during these bouts of industrial action.

In a sign of the danger these strikes pose to the government, Sunak has put Oliver Dowden, the Cabinet Office minister and one of his closest allies, in charge of a unit co-ordinating the government's response. The Tories don't want to get directly involved in settling these disputes. But they know that what is agreed in one area will be treated as precedent in another. They don't want one particularly generous settlement to make it harder and more expensive to reach agreement elsewhere.

Big pay deals squeeze the cash available for public services. Paying staff salaries accounts for almost two thirds of hospital spending and 80 per cent of school spending. Both health and education were given more money by Jeremy Hunt last month to compensate for the impact of inflation on their budgets. This suggests to some Tory MPs that the government is prepared to offer teachers and NHS staff slightly more than the pay review bodies recommended.

The cause of the present problem is obvious: inflation at a 40-year high of 11 per cent. This is being driven by the essentials of life: food and energy. But the government spending totals for the next few years were decided a while ago, when inflation was only 3.8 per cent. Thus they only budgeted for low single-digit pay rises across the public sector.

> Shapps wanted to avoid a return to beer and sandwiches

Increasing all public sector wages in line with inflation would cost an extra £18 billion. Even pegging pay to that of the private sector (rising at 6.8 per cent versus 2.4 per cent in the public sector) would cost £11.7 billion.

Fully compensating workers for inflation can, of course, be done — but only with £18 billion of cuts to services or by increasing taxes still further (ie, by about 3 pence on the basic rate of income tax). After what happened with the mini-budget, it is not realistic to think the government could just borrow the extra money without driving up gilt yields.

Downing Street has decided that neither cuts nor more taxes are the right option — and so is trying to hold the line on pay. Mark Harper, the transport secretary, has been explicit that "inflation-matching or inflation-busting pay rises are unaffordable". Or, to put it another way, he said everyone in the public sector is going to have to take a real-terms pay cut.

This would be a tough sell in any circumstances. It is particularly difficult now. First, public sector wages have been squeezed since the Cameron austerity era, falling by 1.3 per cent in real terms over the past decade. Second, there is a tight labour market, with more than a million vacancies and a low unemployment count. In the 2010s the fear — wrongly — was that a new era of mass unemployment was coming. Squeezed wages in exchange for greater job security seemed a reasonable trade-off. Today, that dynamic does not apply. Already, hospital bosses are complaining about losing healthcare assistants to less demanding, better-paying supermarket jobs.

To be sure, public sector workers are still paid more than private sector ones; median weekly earnings are 12 per cent higher in the public sector and that's before pensions are taken into account. But the coming strikes, with nurses willing to take industrial action for the first time in pursuit of a pay rise 5 per cent above inflation, reveal the prevailing attitude. Indeed, it is telling that Labour has not committed to inflation-matching pay rises across the public sector. Instead Sir Keir Starmer has emphasised how a Labour government would "inherit a pretty awful economic situation" and how the last Labour government had restored "fair pay" for nurses by growing the economy.



New transport secretary Mark Harper has met RMT boss Mick Lynch (above)

Ministers vary on how best to handle striking unions. When Grant Shapps was transport secretary, he wouldn't meet the RMT. He thought ministers getting involved made the strikes more political and risked a return to the era of beer and sandwiches. Ministers do, though, need to look reasonable if they are going to persuade voters of their argument. A public weary of division will punish anyone, on either side of this dispute, who looks like they are relishing confrontation. This explains Harper's decision to talk to Mick Lynch, and Steve Barclay's emphasis on how, as health secretary, his door is open to the nurses — while they both stay out of the cut and thrust of negotiation. The government wants to come across as the equitable party, keen for solutions, not confrontation — and wait for the strikers to exhaust the public's patience.

This leads to the intriguing question: when does the public lose patience, and which group will they blame if strikes continue? Will voters feel that striking NHS workers are just making the waiting lists longer? Or that the government should offer whatever it takes to get nurses back to work?

> The whole episode shows the incendiary politics of inflation

The whole episode is a demonstration of the incendiary politics of inflation. Perhaps the biggest question right now is how quickly prices will come back under control. If this happens towards the end of next year, when the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts inflation at 4 per cent, governing will become far easier.

While the globalised nature of today's economy fuelled inflation, it might bring it down quicker too. Global food prices leapt by some 25 per cent in the summer, but some are now falling. Next winter could be far more contented than this one. But the government will have to weather the coming months first.

James Forsyth is political editor of The Spectator

RED BOX
For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape
thetimes.co.uk

Find the perfect gift

Discover our definitive list of 2022's best reads online.
Scan the QR code or visit shop.the-tls.co.uk/times-books-2022



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
BOOKS OF THE YEAR
2022

Beware the lesson of our first power failure

Unless we modernise our electricity grid we'll let slip the fruits of the next industrial revolution

Ed Conway



@EDCONWAYSKY

Did you know that the world's first conventional power station was built not in New York or Berlin but in London? Holborn Viaduct power station was a coal-fired generator which opened in early 1882, providing lights for thousands of shops and buildings. The illumination of those bulbs was a watershed, the beginning of a second industrial revolution. The shift from steam to electric power lifted productivity in nearly every sector, not to mention dramatically improving living standards. Across the world, it made everyone better off.

But the Holborn power station itself is better seen as a cautionary tale, because within a few years it was shut down. While electricity took off in the US, Germany and elsewhere, London — the world's most populous developed city — was left with a desperately underdeveloped electric grid. Decades later, its comparatively low power consumption, compared with places like Paris, New York and Chicago, was seen as evidence of this once-great nation's backwardness.

This story is worth keeping in mind as you survey the state of Britain's power system today. We don't talk about electric grids much these days, which is odd because so many roads lead back to them. With the world aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2050, much ink is spilt on wind turbines, batteries and electric cars, but none of them will work without a decent system of cables and transformers carrying current to our homes and businesses. And Britain's grid is creaking — badly.

This gets very little attention, but then no one pays much attention until things start going wrong. The grid has served us pretty well over the past few decades, largely because when the countryside was criss-crossed with pylons back in the 1960s they delivered far more power than we would need for some time. But we are now testing those limits.

> Plans for fast electric vehicle chargers have been waylaid

A grid built for a few coal power stations around the country is being asked to accommodate a completely different system: enormous wind farms concentrated in Scotland and out in the North Sea. National Grid is struggling to get new pylons built, because no one wants them on their land and the planning system provides plenty of levers to prevent it. Despite having a target of a carbon-neutral electricity system by 2035, those wanting to build wind farms are being told that the earliest they can get a connection to the mainland is 2034. Something has to give.

But an even bigger issue is what happens at the end of those wires. Local distribution into your home or business is managed not by National Grid (who do the main pylons — the electricity motorways) but by six distribution network operators (DNOs). We don't directly pay these regional monopolies but since they're the ones who own the cables and transformers, they take a cut of everyone's bills. And they've done very well out of it. Indeed, according to calculations by the think tank Common Wealth, they enjoy the highest profit margins of any UK sector. They have delivered billions of pounds to their owners in recent years, among them Warren Buffett and the Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing. This would be fair enough if they were doing a brilliant job but, well, consider the story of one manufacturer in Wigan.

Electric Glass Fiber is the subsidiary of a Japanese fibreglass company. These thin strands of glass might seem unremarkable but they are the backbone of the energy transition. Wind turbine sails are made of fibreglass, as are the bodies of electric cars. Right now the world's fibreglass furnaces are nearly all fired by gas, making them a big energy user and carbon emitter. But the Wigan plant had plans to install an electric furnace — the first such one at scale anywhere. The British government likes to talk about being a world leader in climate change; here was a chance of having a world first on these shores.

Yet when its managing director, Steve Keeton, went to the local DNO to ask whether he could get the current needed for the furnace, he was told he would have to pay £30 million for new cables to get the power to his site. Given the furnace itself costs about £70 million, the cost was prohibitive. His Japanese parent company began to look elsewhere.

This, it turns out, is hardly an unusual story. There are housing projects that have been shelved because the local DNOs will not connect them to the grid. Plans for fast EV (electric vehicle) chargers have been waylaid. If Britain is to replace millions of boilers with heat pumps, it will need to double its electricity production and throughput, but it's not clear the grid can stand up to it. This week Ofgem came up with plans it says should give the DNOs more room to invest in upgrades but, says Keith Bell, one of the country's leading experts, it's not yet clear they've done enough.

This all comes back to a bigger issue: the government has yet to lay out a strategy on heat pumps, on improving the grid, on batteries and, frankly, on energy more generally. Given we are on the brink of another industrial revolution akin to the electric one we saw back at the turn of the 20th century, this is disturbing.

The reason the Holborn power station failed was, in part, because the government had no interest in electricity. London was doing just fine with gas lighting. So it squandered a lead while other countries took the initiative. History is in danger of repeating itself.

Ed Conway is economics and data editor of Sky News

Emma Duncan is away

Hilary Rose Notebook

Harry and Meghan are raising the stakes. Again

Just when you thought it was safe to go out, just when Meghan's series of podcasts has finally ended, this happens. The "Netflix official series announcement and teaser debut" for Harry and Meghan has landed and, by happy, scene-stealing coincidence, it's on the first full day of the Prince and Princess of Wales's US tour. Who could have predicted that?

Just when the Palace thought the news couldn't get any worse, it looks as if it's going to be dynamite. In silent clips, Meghan weeps elegantly, presumably as she speaks her anguished feminist truth about marrying into the life of fame and wealth she always wanted. Harry plays the guitar. The couple kiss. There are toy soldiers marching up the Mall and rescue dogs cavorting on the green, green grass of California.

"I had to do everything I could to protect my family," says Harry. "When the stakes are this high, doesn't it make more sense to hear our story from us?" says Meghan.

We can speculate about the Sussexes' motives, from greed, to revenge, to bringing down the monarchy — who knows? But the fact is that Montecito's most famously pissed-off residents are clearly determined to suck the oxygen out of every single thing the Waleses do between now and kingdom come. If it's possible to feel sorry for two people who live lives of unimaginable wealth and privilege, I feel sorry for them. And I don't mean Harry and Meghan.

Just ask Bridget

A dictionary publisher has announced that gaslighting, a favourite of millennials, is its word of the year. Personally I prefer catfishing, which my millennial friends tell me is when a man's appearance on his dating profile does not quite — to put it delicately — accord with reality. Softbois, though, is a new one on me. It means men who mess women around by pretending to be decent and sensible, with all their emotions in roughly the right place, when actually they're a mess. Alas, rubbish behaviour isn't new, but I can at least spare them the need to think up new words for it. There already is one, which covers it all. Bridget Jones has had their backs since before they were born: f***wittage. Say no more.



Sheer agony

Sometimes, as we know from Tammy Wynette, it's hard to be a woman. And sometimes we make it even harder with a pointless and self-defeating challenge. So it is that some colleagues and I decided in the autumn that we would show winter who's boss by not wearing tights until December. Tights would be an admission of seasonal defeat, rather like putting the heating on. "We are better than that," we decided. "We will pretend it's still summer. We will crack on with the fake tan and the pedicures, because once we reach for the black opaques, there is no turning back until March."

They caved at the first cold snap, but I am from Manchester. Today is December 2, and I did it. The challenge was entirely pointless and periodically painful, but it made us laugh. I'm confident that all sensation will return to my feet by spring.

Time for a fairytale

How can it be that Ed Sheeran's song *Perfect* is the most-streamed Christmas No 1? What is the matter with everyone? It's gloopy and mawkish at any time of year and has no place anywhere near a Christmas playlist, which should clearly be dominated by the following: Wham!'s *Last Christmas*, *Fairytale of New York*, Jona Lewie singing *Stop the Cavalry* and East 17's *Stay Another Day*, which I know is about death, but the bells pealing at the end get me every time.

My niece informs me that *Fairytale of New York* is now considered problematic because of the F-word, but I'm afraid Kirsty MacColl cheerfully belting out "Happy Christmas your arse/ I pray God it's our last" will always be a festive highlight in my house.

Ann Treneman is away

THUNDERER

Banks should bow to inevitable and close branches

David Byers

The tidal wave of bank branch closures continues. This week HSBC announced it would shut 114 more high street outposts from next April — a quarter of its UK network — because people aren't using them any more. So far this year, 642 branches belonging to all banks have been closed; the total since 2016 is 5,155, an average of three closures every working day.

Campaigners claim banks have a social responsibility to keep all branches open. But I say they don't and they are right to close many of them down.

We need to accept that physical banking (and, by extension, the use of cash) is doomed. A total of 93 per cent of adults say they use online banking today, up from 52 per cent ten years ago, according to UK Finance, the banking industry body. The vast majority of everyday transactions can now be done online. A bank branch costs an average £590,000 a year to run, according to the Financial Conduct Authority, and Lloyds claims some of its lesser-used rural branches are being visited by fewer than 200 regular customers.

I know there are thousands of elderly and vulnerable people who do not use online banking and who will be deprived of vital facilities if remote branches close. So, while banks should be allowed to close branches, there are a number of things they should do to help their customers.

First, they should be forced by law to dedicate significant resources to help people transition to online. This would involve setting up programmes of training sessions, free to access and available both in-person and digitally. For those with particular difficulties, there should be outreach visits. People without access to the internet should be allowed priority bookings, and possibly even priority access, to remaining branches.

Second, banks must get serious about working together to set up shared banking hubs in remote locations. Mini branches are staffed by representatives of five different banks one day a week each, offering a counter service and a place for customers to discuss financial matters. By the end of this year only four will have opened their doors after a lengthy pilot, while more than 20 others are on the waiting list.

Third, banks must be forced to invest in more mobile pop-up branches to serve communities on dedicated days and in chosen venues (some already have). They could also use technology to run branches with fewer staff, copying the "robo-branches" now open in Liguria, Italy.

Instead of denying reality and keeping thousands of ghost branches open, we need to accept that old-fashioned banking is dying and plan for what follows.

David Byers is assistant money editor



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk or call 020 7711 7826

Calls to curb Twitter lay bare an illiberal elite

Musk's takeover makes the media establishment feel it's lost control of the narrative. So it brings in the Ministry of Truth

Gerard Baker



@GERARDTBAKER

There was a fascinating exchange in Washington last week that reflected the rising alarm among the ruling classes about the direction of Twitter since Elon Musk acquired it a couple of months ago. Musk has opened up the platform to a multiplicity of voices that were previously banned for breaching our rulers' various mandates and has been getting serious flak for it.

"This is a critical moment in ensuring that Twitter does not become a vector of misinformation," an participant told a senior Biden administration official. "What tools do you have? Who is it at the White House that is keeping track of this?"

"This is certainly something that we're keeping an eye on," the official replied, reassuring the anxious petitioner that the federal government with all its awesome powers was indeed carefully monitoring the activity of a privately owned company with a view to correcting its behaviour.

It sounds like the kind of surreptitiously recorded conversation that leaks from some government agency in an authoritarian state seeking ways to censor media deemed unhelpful to the regime.

But it wasn't. The occasion was the daily White House press briefing, and the questioner demanding to know what the government was going to do to curb the expression of unacceptable views was the White House correspondent for Reuters, the august global news organisation. The respondent promising to "keep an eye" on the miscreant was Karine Jean-Pierre, President Biden's official spokeswoman.

That's right. A leading representative of the fourth estate, whose entire purpose and existence depends on the protection from government diktat of the right to publish information, however accurate or inaccurate it may be, was urging the government to do something to stop another organisation publishing content she dubbed "misinformation". And she got a reply that, unsurprisingly, suggested agreement.

This Reuters Robespierre was not alone, of course. For some time the leading media and technology companies have been actively suppressing information that, in their infallible judgment, they have deemed erroneous — which means unhelpful to the furtherance of their cause: dissident views on the efficacy of lockdowns, research that suggested Covid may have started in a Chinese laboratory, reporting on scandals that might prove harmful to the Democratic candidate for president, and all the myriad dissents expressed to the prevailing dogmas on race, gender, sexuality and the other mandatory tenets of our age.

This is the extent of the pathology that now grips the media establishment in western democracies. The capture of Twitter by an iconoclast who promises an absolutist approach to free speech — minus dangerous or unlawful content — is the latest evidence that they have lost control of the public narrative. They will stop at nothing now to regain it. It seems that legions of "misinformation reporters" hired by the big news organisations have somehow failed to eliminate the risk of error entering the minds of credulous citizens. So more drastic action is called for. Time to call in the Ministry of Truth.

> There is all kinds of nonsense on Twitter. So what?

The panicked collusion among our approved arbiters of veracity is far reaching. A number of big companies have, under pressure from their staff and the media, stopped advertising on Twitter. One of them is Apple, and according to Musk this week the world's largest company is threatening to remove Twitter from its app store, a move that could in effect kill it off completely.

This is the same Apple that has abruptly curtailed its permanent AirDrop feature in China, by which iPhone and iPad users can transfer information without needing to use a network. The move deprived anti-government protesters of one of the few remaining channels they had for exchanging and expressing views.

So, Apple thinks having some right-winger spout nonsense on Twitter is a serious enough threat to the health of society that it warrants a death sentence for the company. But it's fine to help the Chinese government shut down protests against its genuinely authoritarian rule.

Let's stipulate that there is all kinds of nonsense on Twitter. Its bits and bytes channel is a veritable tsunami of verbal sewage: conspiracy theories, calumnies, false information, offensive language, bafflingly wrong and simply barmy ideas. So what? No one is required to subscribe to it. The same people who defended Twitter pre-Musk by saying it was a private company and could do what it liked, especially when it came to banning Donald Trump, are the ones now crying out for regulation.

The right way to tackle falsehoods is with truth, facts and argument: and if people are not susceptible to the exercise of reason, what on earth makes our censorious elites think they won't find a way to find falsehoods and believe irrational things in any case?

And most importantly, who gets to decide what is permissible and what isn't, what is information and what is misinformation? We got an ominous answer to that question this week when the European Commission, getting ahead of even the Biden administration, announced that Twitter would be banned in Europe if it didn't abide by "content moderation" rules.

Does anyone outside the bureaucracies and newsrooms of the major media seriously think that only information carrying the imprimatur of the European Commission or the White House will be trusted by the people?

The essence of our liberal approach to expression has for nearly three centuries been captured by Voltaire's famous dictum: "I disagree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it." The modern media establishment would like the platforms and companies that now purvey information to know that this guidance has been updated: "I disagree with what you say and I shall pursue you to the death to ensure you don't get to say it."

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Sunak's schooling

Sir, Sir Keir Starmer does Rishi Sunak a disservice in aiming his complaint about tax breaks for private schools at the prime minister's alma mater, Winchester College ("Taxing public schools an assault on aspiration, PM tells Starmer", news, Dec 1). I very much doubt that Sunak had any great say in which secondary school he attended any more than the rest of us did. It was his parents' choice, and they no doubt chose what they thought would be the best school for him. Choice per se is good. The point we should be focusing on is why any school that is essentially a business should receive a preferential tax status.
Deborah Rubli
Chichester

Sir, It is tempting to despair that political attention on education is again being absorbed by the totemic and marginal issue of VAT on private school fees. At the south London state primary school where my daughter has just begun her teaching career, they cannot afford to fix the only printer. We should be concentrating on the big issue: the chronic underfunding of state education.
Clarissa Farr
Former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, London W6

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

Corrections and clarifications

● We said the Planning Inspectorate's verdict on the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station was "wrong project on the wrong site" (comment, Nov 28). We have been asked to make clear that this was our characterisation of the verdict and the Inspectorate did not use those words. Its recommendation against proceeding with the project was mainly based on concerns about water supply strategy and habitat regulations.

● We reported the defence secretary, Ben Wallace, as saying that the British Army needs to be properly funded as it is only big enough to "stay at home and do a bit of tootling around" (news, Nov 25). Mr Wallace's words were taken out of context. What he said was, "If we just want to stay at home and do a little bit of tootling around, we've got an armed forces big enough." His point, set out in the rest of the interview, was that we need funding for our armed forces to meet any threat that may arise and to match the ambition of the prime minister of the day, whatever it may be. We are happy to make this clear.

ipso. Regulated ***The Times* takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

Buckingham Palace and institutional racism

Sir, Trevor Phillips's article is spot on ("Racism and the royal family: does this row prove Meghan right?", Times2, Dec 1). Lady Susan Hussey must be unbelievably obtuse not to have realised that this sort of conversation is at best insensitive, especially with her being so insistent. However, I disagree with the assertion in the accompanying piece by Liv Facey: "The question 'where are you from?' is something that wouldn't be asked of a white person." I am a white person with Irish heritage. The Irish have been discriminated against in this country for centuries, and I have been asked about my antecedents many, many times. Do I take offence? No. I frequently ask people I meet where they hail from — it can be a very good inroad to an interesting conversation, as people's histories can be (and usually are) fascinating.
Monica Murphy
Crewkerne, Somerset

Sir, Lady Susan Hussey has given more than 60 years of impeccable service to Queen and country ("William's godmother quits over racism row", Dec 1). There were many important international guests and others in national dress at the Buckingham Palace reception, and that explains her questions. There was nothing racist in them. I have known her for 40 years and she has never shown a trace of racism. Like everyone in the family she has served, she has a completely open and kind head and heart to all nations and races, especially people from the Commonwealth. Many of us have asked strangers of all colours and accents where they come from.

Sue Hussey has devoted her life to one of the most important institutions in this country. Like the Queen she served, she has never put a foot wrong. I know she will be very distressed that she has upset the guest to whom she talked. The attacks on her are totally unfair.
William Shawcross
London W2

Sir: I do not know Lady Susan Hussey personally but when I was writing a book on the Crown's relationship with Ireland she meticulously corrected my sources, taken from the Royal Archives, and saved me from making quite a few errors. I was impressed by her care and attention to detail, and my book, *Crown and Shamrock*, served as a reliable background to the Queen's state visit to Ireland in 2011 — reliable because Lady Susan had checked the archive sources. This may not be directly related to the present controversy, but in any rounded perspective of her character and record, her long service and, in my case, the exacting standards of scholarship she showed, should be part of the overall picture. She declined to be thanked in my acknowledgements, preferring to remain anonymous.
Mary Kenny
Deal, Kent

Sir, I am regularly quizzed about my origins. Rather than make complaints of institutional racism, I use the natural curiosity of my interrogators as an opportunity to explain the shameful treatment of members of the Polish armed forces in the Second World War, including my father-in-law, who fought with the British. There are far more discreet ways of dealing with the inexcusable behaviour of Lady Susan Hussey than immediately sharing the exchange online, thereby causing huge embarrassment to the Queen, who hosted the event, and the wider royal family.
Teresa Sienkiewicz
Lopen, Somerset

Sir, Given her age and background, Lady Susan Hussey's hauteur and tin-eared questions are perhaps not a surprise; her bad manners are altogether harder to understand.
Ian Galletley
Witney, Oxon

Value of religion as community glue

Sir, David Aaronovitch thinks we should focus on the "role" of places of worship, even as "active faith" is on the wane ("As an atheist, declining religion worries me", Dec 1). Our tiny inner-city congregation makes the best of a 120-year-old building that is desperately in need of renovation. We house a refuge for rough sleepers, are the base for a scheme that teaches English to newly arrived migrants, let city councillors hold surgeries and town hall meetings on our premises, and we operated as a vaccination centre during the pandemic. Someone has to worry about making sure the lavatories work, the gutters are clear, the insurance is paid, the heating is on and the doors open for members of the community, many of whom, like Aaronovitch, do not share our faith.

We are a handful of volunteers who keep our church running by giving both time and money. We thank God every day for the transformation that began for each one of us when we recognised and accepted the beauty of His unutterable love, through his son Jesus Christ. Without that faith our building would have closed long ago, and the community would be the poorer for it.
David Hallam
Local preacher, City Road Methodist Church, Birmingham

Sir, To equate the declaration of "no religion" with being an atheist is oversimplistic. In my 35 years-plus in the priestly ministry, much of which was served in the Armed Forces as a chaplain, I can safely say that for many people who tick that box "no religion" simply means not affiliated to any organised religious group such as the Church of England. I have found that it is not often a clear declaration of atheistic non-belief. The relationship most people have with organised religion is complex, and is often coloured by recent scandals and bad experiences they may have had with some clergy and church members.
The Rev Tony Gilbert
Rural dean of Sherborne

Striking nurses

Sir, Daniel Finkelstein is right when he highlights the importance of the independent review body in determining nurses' pay ("Sorry nurses, but your strike is a mistake", Nov 30; letters, Dec 1). Perhaps another significant cause of nurses' dissatisfaction, apart from their remuneration, is the degree of understaffing and number of job vacancies. This leads to additional pressure to work over and above their contracted hours and to collude with delivering substandard care when the staffing numbers fall below adequate levels. This dissatisfaction is exacerbated by the use of substantially better-paid agency nurses to try to fill the gaps. With vacancies in England standing at about 40,000, increased training and recruitment of nurses would go far towards improving job dissatisfaction and greater acceptance of the review body's recommendations.
Dr Michael J Hall
Consultant physician (ret'd), Hereford

CHILDERS'S LAST LETTERS TO HIS WIFE

FROM THE TIMES DECEMBER 2, 1922

A Dublin message gives some passages from the farewell letters received by Mrs Erskine Childers from her husband after his execution. Writing just before his execution, he said: "You will be pleased to see how imperturbably normal and tranquil I have been this night and am. It all seems perfectly simple and inevitable, like lying down after a long day's work."

Four days earlier he wrote: "I hope one day my good name will be cleared in England. I feel what Churchill said about my hatred and malice against England. How well we know that is not true. I die loving England, and passionately praying that she may change completely and finally towards Ireland."

The night before he wrote, when the guard was relieved: "The men going off all said, 'Good-bye and God bless you,' and I to them. They wanted, souvenirs, but I have very few — some books and some signatures. So we children of the Universal mother touch hands and go our ways in the very midst of the horror of this war of our brothers."

● As the appointed day for the establishment of the Free State approaches, the military authorities in Dublin are taking extensive precautions against a possible coup by militant Republicans. Today all the main approaches were patrolled, while in the principal streets soldiers were stopping and searching pedestrians. The searching was very thorough, particularly in the neighbourhood of Kildare Street, where the Provisional Parliament is meeting this afternoon. One young man found to be in possession of an automatic pistol and suspicious documents was arrested in company with two others. Early this morning three National officers on reconnaissance in the Maynooth area were surprised and taken prisoner by a large number of Irregulars. Later, National troops attacked the Irregulars' headquarters in a large house near Maynooth, and after a short engagement took 22 prisoners, one Lewis gun, one Thompson gun, 21 rifles, seven revolvers, five bombs, and over 100 rounds of ammunition. The three officers captured in the morning were set at liberty. In the course of the fighting one soldier was killed and three wounded. The Irregulars' losses were three wounded.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Breakfast is magic

Sir, Further to your report "Breakfast club fuelled Oxford dream" (Dec 1), 15 years ago I started a breakfast club at the all-boys inner London comprehensive where I was assistant head. We were 100 per cent reliable, providing breakfasts every school morning. We also allowed those who came to use the computers before school. The boys preferred sausage and bacon rolls, with fresh juices. The cereals went past their sell-by date, unopened. We sold at cost price, but made profits from teachers coming to the club for coffee and doughnuts. The profits were given to charitable causes.

Boundaries were set. If you were not on time, you would not be served. It worked. To see adolescent boys who had been "school refusers" running up the driveway and tapping on the window so they could eat was heart-warming. They all got in to school on time.
Ian Groves
London Colney, Herts

Energy landmarks

Sir, I was struck by David Lowe's sensible comments about the impact of onshore wind farms on the beauty of the country (letter, Dec 1). I was reminded of the electricity pylons that have straddled the country for decades. We are now so used to them that we have become blind to them. However, they also offer one distinct benefit: they are excellent navigation aids for our Duke of Edinburgh expedition groups who have got lost.
Algy Cole
Timperley, Cheshire

Static in radio car

Sir, Matthew Parris and Rob Skinner (letter, Dec 1) have revived memories of my experiences in the 1970s in a cramped vehicle that the BBC called the radio car. It was supposed to bring urgency and immediacy to breathless reviews from outside theatres just after curtain-down. Instead, I recall being driven in leisurely fashion from the Old Vic to Portland Place, where I sat squashed and uncomfortable right outside BBC headquarters for 15 minutes, more than enough time to have got out and strolled to a studio, so that the Radio Four presenter could claim my review came "from the radio car".
Benedict Nightingale
Chief theatre critic of *The Times* 1990-2010; London SW6

Surgeon's qualities

Sir, In your obituary of Dame Clare Marx (Nov 30) I read what she had been told were the three important qualities in a surgeon. As a medical student I was vouchsafed a rather different triad. My consultant, who had a substantial private practice, told me that necessary qualities were affability, availability and ability. Two of them, he said, were important.
Michael Blinston-Jones
Stelling Minnis, Kent

Country lore

Sir, Jonathan Tulloch poses the question: "How do you tell the difference between crows and rooks?" (Nature notes, Nov 30). My father, a lifelong countryman, had a simple answer. If you see a lot of crows together, they're rooks. If you see a rook by itself, it's a crow.
Stephen Bell
York

Daily Universal Register

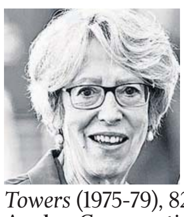
UK: Results of the City of Chester by-election.
US: The Earthshot Prize awards ceremony takes place in Boston, attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Nature notes



The common rudd is a fine-looking fish. Their fins are a deep red, and their silvery scales have the golden sheen that gives them their alternative name of golden rudd. Huge yellow-orange eyes add to the overall remarkable effect. One of their distinctive characteristics is an upturned mouth, which allows them to eat vegetation and insects near or on the surface. Rudd favour clean lakes, slow-flowing rivers and canals. Forming shoals, they like to nose through thick waterweed beds and overhanging vegetation. In farmed conditions such as fishing lakes, they often hybridise with other fish species such as chub and bream. One of their favourite snacks is duckweed.
JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Patricia Hewitt, *pictured*, chairwoman, review of NHS integrated care systems, Labour MP (1997-2010), health secretary (2005-07), 74; **Connie Booth**, actress and co-writer, *Fawlty Towers* (1975-79), 82; **Lord (Tim) Boswell of Aynho**, Conservative MP (1987-2010), 80; **Brendan Coyle**, actor, *Downton Abbey* (2010-15, 2019, 2022), 60; **Paula Dunn**, Paralympic head coach, British Athletics (2012-22), 58; **Mike England**, footballer, Tottenham Hotspur (1966-75), Wales (1962-75) and manager (1979-87), 81; **Alfred Enoch**, actor, the Harry Potter films (2001-11), 34; **Nelly Furtado**, singer-songwriter, *Promiscuous* (2006), 44; **Craig Hassall**, chief executive, Royal Albert Hall, 58; **Philip Knatchbull**, chief executive, Curzon World cinema group, 61; **Lucy Liu**, actress, *Elementary* (2012-19), 54; **Tom McGuinness**, guitarist, Manfred Mann and the Blues Band, 81; **Edward Fitzalan-Howard**, **Duke of Norfolk**, the Earl Marshal, 66; **Vanessa O'Brien**, mountaineer, the first woman to travel to the highest and deepest points on Earth and enter space (the explorer's extreme trifecta), 58; **Ann Patchett**, author, *Bel Canto* (2001), 59; **Kalvin Phillips**, footballer, Manchester City and England, 27; **George Saunders**, writer, *Lincoln in the Bardo* (2017, Man Booker prizewinner), 64; **Monica Seles**, tennis player, former world No 1 (1991) and bronze medallist in the 2000 Olympics, 49; **Jenny Lee Smith**, golfer, winner of the inaugural Women's British Open in 1976, 74; **Britney Spears**, singer, *… Baby One More Time* (1999), 41; **Penelope Spheeris**, film director, *Wayne's World* (1992), 77; **Penelope Tree**, fashion model prominent in the Sixties, 73; **Mary Ward**, co-founder (1974) and ambassador, the Chickenshed theatre company, 78; **Chris Wolstenholme**, rock bassist, Muse, 44.

On this day

In **1963** the Indian-American actor Sabu died of a heart attack, aged 39. His films included *The Thief of Bagdad* (1940), and he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his war service. Two days before his death his doctor had said: "If all my patients were as healthy as you, I would be out of a job."

The last word

"The more prohibitions that are imposed on people, the poorer the people become."
Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher, (c 604 to 531BC) in *Tao Te Ching*

Out of Order

The German chancellor is wrong to talk of a return to the pre-war peace order while Russian forces still occupy Ukraine. The path to peace lies in Russia's military defeat

The latest comments on Ukraine by Olaf Scholz will have set alarm bells ringing in Kyiv, as they should in other western capitals. Speaking at the Berlin security conference on Wednesday, the German chancellor talked of his hope that Europe could return to the pre-war peace order that existed before President Putin invaded Ukraine. "We can come back to a peace order that worked and make it safe again if there is a willingness in Russia to go back to this peace order," he said in answer to a question about how Germany would deal with Russia after the war, given its previous "strong partnership". That will do little to settle nerves in Ukraine where there is already anxiety that war fatigue in some European countries may lead to pressure on Kyiv to negotiate a peace deal with the Kremlin.

It's true that Mr Scholz stopped well short of suggesting that Kyiv should enter into such negotiations now. In this respect, his remarks did not deviate from Nato's position that any decision to enter peace negotiations was a matter solely for Kyiv. Indeed, he clearly condemned Russia's "imperialistic approach… where a stronger country thinks it could just take the territory of its neighbour, understanding neighbours as just hinterland." He was also clear that a return to a pre-war peace order would require Mr Putin to accept open societies and democracies on Russia's borders.

Nonetheless, any talk of a return to the pre-war order while Russian forces are still occupying about 20 per cent of Ukrainian territory is at the least premature, if not naive. What was left of the pre-war order following Russia's invasions of Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014 was comprehensively smashed on February 24 this year when Mr Putin launched the present war. In the process, he broke every treaty designed to maintain European security, including the United Nations charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Nato-Russia Founding Act and the Budapest Memorandum under which Russia itself pledged to guarantee Ukraine's security in return for Kyiv's agreement to give up its nuclear weapons. Not only is that order dead, but it is hard to see how any new treaty agreed by Mr Putin could be trusted.

What's more, Russia's barbarous conduct in the war has driven a further coach and horses through any claim by Moscow that it respects international law. At the very least, evidence collected so far from Bucha, Kharkiv, Kherson and everywhere else from which Russian forces have retreated points to the most heinous war crimes having been committed. At worst, Russia's attempts to destroy Ukrainian culture, identity and nationhood through the bombardment of civilian infrastructure, abduction of children and effort to outlaw Ukrainian language and history in occupied areas meet the UN's definition of genocide. This week's anniversary of Holodomor, the Soviet Union's genocidal campaign of mass starvation in Ukraine in the 1930s, is a reminder that today's barbarism has long antecedents.

The reality is that any new peace order will need to look very different to what came before, with treaties underpinned by more robust security guarantees. More importantly, there is no path to a durable peace order that does not lie in Russia's military defeat. Despite the remarkable successes of Ukraine's counter-offensives this year, that will not be easy to achieve. Forcing Russia out of its present defensive positions will require hard fighting next year. In this context, it is alarming that Germany, in common with many Nato members, is running short of supplies of ammunition, both for its own military and to supply Ukraine. As leaked Kremlin polls show that Russian public opinion is itself becoming war-weary, now is not the time to talk of peace. The surest way to end the war is to procure the weapons Ukraine needs to finish the job.

Playground Politics

Private schools should make a positive case in the face of Labour attacks

Only three Labour Party manifestos of modern times have proposed the punitive reforms to the private school sector Sir Keir Starmer now advocates: the abolition of their charitable status and the imposition of VAT on the fees charged to parents. They were published in 1983, 2017 and 2019 respectively. All were years in which the electorate rightly declined to endorse an unreconstructed brand of socialism. That enough should tell the Labour leader his populist turn amounts to bad politics. It should go without saying that it is also bad policy.

Yet the opposition appears to be in no mood to listen. Buoyed into complacency by substantial leads in the polls, Labour risks mistaking slogans that rouse its base for measures that would serve the national interest. In the Commons on Wednesday, Sir Keir questioned why Winchester College, the prime minister's alma mater, benefited from £6 million in tax relief. That the charitable status of public schools permits them VAT exemptions and an 80 per cent discount on business rates, the Labour leader said, is a "scandal".

Surveys of public opinion may suggest that voters agree with Sir Keir. He is nonetheless wrong to cleave to this Corbynite article of faith. It was Nye Bevan who said that the language of priorities was the religion of socialism. There is no convincing argument as to why the Labour leader should prioritise an unprecedented assault on this country's internationally renowned independent schools in his first term in No 10, as his spokesman pledged this week. In addition to familiar bromides on fairness, Sir Keir maintains that imposing VAT on school fees would raise some £1.7 billion in revenue for a straitened exchequer. Yet even that logic fails on its own myopic terms.

Despite educating a mere 7 per cent of Britain's children, the independent sector saves the Treasury an estimated £4.4 billion it would otherwise have to spend educating children in state schools. It also contributes some £5.1 billion in tax revenue and employs 300,000 people. Nor is its appeal merely domestic. The enduring appeal of a rigorous, scholarly secondary education — and more often than not entry into a prestigious university — has helped foster one of Britain's healthiest export industries. That is an economic success story by any objective standard. No wonder so many parents like Rishi Sunak's harbour the aspirations Sir Keir now maligns.

To defend private schools is not to exculpate them of any social responsibility, no matter what the Labour Party may argue. Most are alive to justified pressure to demonstrate why they deserve to be recognised as charities in the eyes of the law. Increasing numbers of their pupils do not pay fees at all, instead benefiting from bursaries and scholarships for the able and disadvantaged. Indeed, more than 30 per cent of all pupils at Britain's 2,000 private schools receive some financial help. Many schools have not only opened their sixth forms and other facilities to neighbouring comprehensives, offering A-level courses and intensive tuition to those who would otherwise have no opportunity to apply to university, but fund schools in the state sector too.

Government intervention in this thriving, expanding market would be a grave mistake. Rather than scaremonger about mass closures, independent schools will find this reply is the most potent riposte to Labour's politics of envy.

Royal Reason

Susan Hussey had to go but her remarks must be kept in perspective

It is hard to think what more Buckingham Palace could have done in response to Ngozi Fulani's account of her conversation with Lady Susan Hussey. The Palace condemned her peculiarly insistent questions concerning where Ms Fulani was "really from". An apology was made. Lady Hussey has departed her role as a senior courtier. The Palace renewed its commitment to diversity and inclusion training for its staff. Quite right, too.

Some might think this reaction shows an oversensitivity to so-called wokeism. Yet Lady Hussey's implied belief that a black person cannot also "really" be a British national is offensive to the close on 2.5 million people who are. It is difficult to imagine the Lady of the Household interrogating a white guest in the same way.

The "where are you from?" question can be benign or sinister depending on context. To many, it counts as mere small talk, a harmless lubricant of casual human interaction. Or, as many readers of overseas heritage point out, the inquiry can demonstrate welcome interest and stimulate fascinating cross-cultural exchanges. Or, depending on tone, it can be tactless, aggressive or rude. Or, when posed clumsily, doggedly and with a degree of condescension, as in this case, the person being harried for an answer can justifiably feel their identity and legitimacy are being undermined.

A sense of proportion must, however, be maintained. For the Prince of Wales to specifically mention racism in his condemnation felt like overkill, especially as the person accused is his 83-year-old godmother. While age is, as Ms Fulani points out, no mitigation for prejudice, advanced years do serve to make overreaction more unseemly when the punishment is in danger of exceeding the crime. Perhaps the prince felt the need to get in first before his brother and sister-in-law. He should have resisted the temptation.

World

West must restore 'peace order' with Russia, says Scholz

Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

Olaf Scholz has suggested that Europe should go back to its prewar "peace order" with Russia and resolve "all questions of common security" after the war in Ukraine if President Putin is willing to renounce aggression against his neighbours.

In his most revealing remarks on the subject, the German chancellor said he would ultimately like to restore the patchwork of security arrangements stitched together during and after the Cold War, so long as Moscow was ready to honour them.

Up to now Nato leaders have tended to discuss future relations with Russia in vague terms, beyond insisting that only Ukraine can determine the terms on which it is prepared to end the war.

During a panel discussion at the Berlin Security Conference, however, Scholz said there was a "willingness" to engage with the Kremlin on matters such as arms control and missile deployment, on the condition that Putin stopped trying to expand Russia's territory through invasions.

Asked how Germany would act towards Russia once the war was over, given the "strong partnership" that previously existed between the two countries, the chancellor replied: "At this stage I would say it's not about partnership, to be very honest. Russia spoilt the peace order we worked on for so many decades and we agreed there should never again be the attempt to change borders by force.

"What Russia is doing today is going back to the imperialistic approach of the 19th, 18th, 17th century where a stronger country thinks it could just take the territory of the neighbour … and this can never be accepted."

He continued: "We have to go back to the agreements which we had in the past decades and which were the basis for peace and security order in Europe.

"And for Russia this also means that it accepts that aside of its borders there are open-minded societies, open societies, democracies.

"In the end there is no aggression coming from the member states of the European Union, there is no aggression coming from Nato, and all questions of common security could be solved and discussed. There is a willingness to do so."

Scholz concluded, to a round of applause from the audience: "We can come back to a peace order that worked and make it safe again if there is a willingness in Russia to go back to this peace order."

His comments appear to put him at odds with some Putin-sceptic Nato allies such as Poland and the Baltic states, which are intensely reluctant to make concessions to the Kremlin and mistrustful of its readiness to uphold any postwar peace agreement.

Yet they also indicate that some leaders in the alliance are beginning to define more specific aims for a lasting accommodation with Russia once the war in Ukraine ends.

Scholz's remarks, first reported in The Times, provoked a mixed reaction. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the former president of Estonia and an implacable critic of Putin, wrote on Twitter: "What planet does [Scholz] come from? For some reason I doubt CEE [central and eastern Europe] will go for it."

Jana Puglierin, Berlin head of the think tank the European Council on Foreign Relations, noted that Russia had already long turned its back on the "peace order" to which Scholz alluded.

"By 2014 at the latest, the Kremlin had largely withdrawn from the European security order and openly communicated this," she said. "I think that this was one of the biggest misunderstandings on the part of the Germans prior to the war: Russia was no longer a stakeholder in the existing order. It did not want, and does not want, changes here and there, it wants a new order."

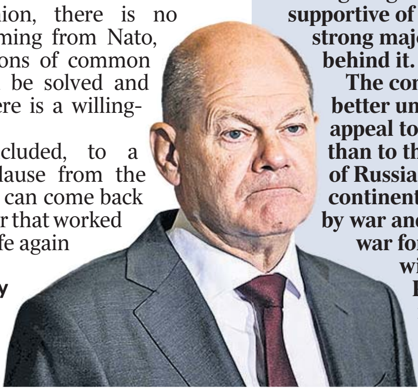
However, other analysts warned against reading too much into Scholz's statement, arguing that he had simply set out strict conditions for any peace deal. In the days before the Russian invasion in February Scholz visited Putin in Moscow to try to avert war through abortive negotiations on a collective European security architecture.

In July he accused Putin of "reducing the European and international peace order of the past decades to soot and ashes". Yet he has also hinted on several occasions that the door is open to reviving some kind of security arrangement with Moscow after it withdraws its troops from Ukraine.

Like President Macron, Scholz has maintained periodic telephone contact with the Russian president, and the German diplomatic service is understood to have kept a number of back channels open to the Kremlin.

Appearing alongside Scholz at the same event, Jonas Gahr Store, the Norwegian prime minister, praised him for maintaining a line of communication to Putin. Asked how Norway would handle Russia after the war, Store said: "As foreign minister… we settled a 40-year border dispute in the Arctic Ocean through very modern, up-to-date negotiations. The same people are still there but it's like a completely different regime — or perhaps it isn't."

Now is not the time to talk of peace, leading article, page 37



The remarks by Scholz did not go down well with Russia's neighbours

A plea to the history books

Analysis

For years the mission statement of Olaf Scholz's Social Democratic party (SPD) has maintained that there can be no lasting peace in Europe against Russia — only "with Russia" (Oliver Moody writes).

This axiom has gone up in flames since the invasion. Yet the problem it was meant to address lingers and will only come into sharper focus whenever the war in Ukraine draws to an end.

It is all very well to treat Russia as a pariah state. In practice, however, it cannot simply be shunned for ever: despite the sanctions regime its economy is entangled with Europe's and it retains enough influence on the global stage that it will have to be dealt with one way or another.

On several occasions Scholz has likened the current situation to the years preceding the First World War. He evidently worries that the world may be stumbling into a cycle of escalating conflict that could last for decades, and wants to stabilise matters to prevent a wider catastrophe beyond Ukraine's borders.

Having carried out war crimes on an industrial scale, it is not clear that Russia can provide any guarantees worth the paper they are written on.

In a conservative reading, the German chancellor has simply stated the obvious: Russia cannot live in peace with Europe until it ceases trying to stamp its will beyond its borders.

This does not necessarily imply a substantial shift in German policy, which has been — despite the misgivings of some allies — supportive of Ukraine, with a strong majority of the public behind it.

The comments may be better understood as an appeal to future historians than to the present leader of Russia: that if the continent remains blighted by war and the threat of war for years to come, it will be because Putin alone has rejected peace and chosen the path of violence.



Biden and Macron bury the hatchet over ice cream

President Biden agreed to tweak US climate change legislation so as not to exclude Europe after President Macron argued against killing jobs with "super-aggressive" subsidies for American companies during a hard-talking but warm state visit yesterday (David Charter writes).

The olive branch came as the French leader became the first head of state to receive the full ceremonial treatment from Biden. The two nations are seeking to repair a falling out after the US muscled France out of a submarine deal with Australia last year.

Before a lavish dinner at the White House, the two leaders stood side by side to pledge strong support for Ukraine and Biden said he would meet President Putin for talks if the Russian leader was serious about withdrawing his troops. Macron thanked Biden for US support for Europe to cope with energy costs arising from the war and pledged to help "build peace" on Ukrainian terms.

"I have no immediate plans to contact Mr Putin … I'm prepared to speak with Mr Putin if in fact there is an interest in him deciding he's looking for a way to end the war. He hasn't done that yet," Biden said. "If that's the case, in consultation with my French and Nato friends, I'll be happy to sit down with Mr Putin to see what he has in mind."

The visit suggested that Washington and Paris had buried the hatchet after their row when Australia pulled out of a French submarine deal worth €56 billion in favour of US nuclear-powered vessels. However, since then trade has become the main aggravation. Macron was overheard on Wednesday telling members of Congress that huge climate-change subsidies to US companies in Biden's Inflation Reduction Act were "super-aggressive" and that they "will kill a lot of jobs" in Europe.

In the Oval Office before private talks, Macron acknowledged "challenging times" in Ukraine and called on the two nations to "synchronise our actions" on the climate.

In the press conference later Biden responded that "there's tweaks that we can make [to the US legislation] that can fundamentally make it easier for European countries to participate" and to iron out "glitches".

He added: "It was

China rethinks zero-Covid strategy after protests
Page 40



Florida sheriff plans to 'tear ass off' tearaways
Page 42

POTUS/INSTAGRAM; ANDREW HARNIK/AP; UPI/ALAMY







The presidents and first ladies at lunch. Left, the arrival ceremony; below, a trip to Planet Word

never intended when I wrote the legislation, never intended to exclude folks who were co-operating with us, that was not the intention."

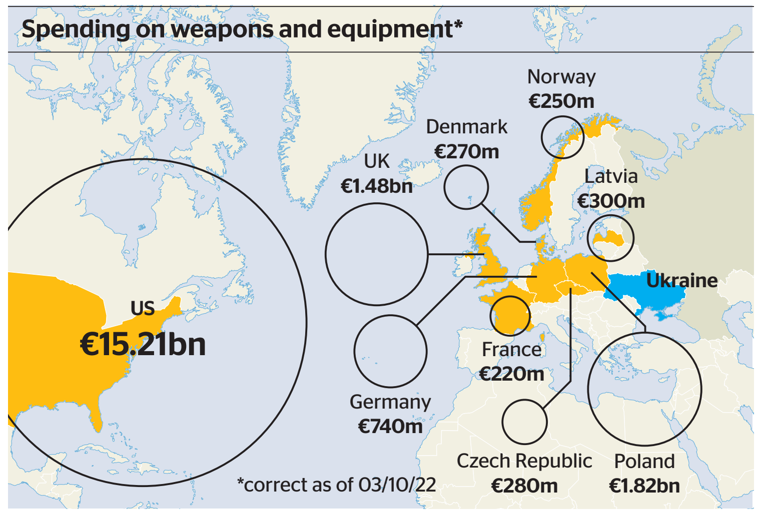
Macron said: "We want to succeed together, not one against the other. This is the outcome of our discussions."

Earlier yesterday the Macrons were welcomed to the White House with full military honours, including a detachment of soldiers in 18th-century uniform, recalling France's support against the British. Macron also met five US veterans of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Among the gifts presented by the French president was a recording of the original soundtrack of the 1966 Claude Lelouch film *Un homme et une femme*, which Biden and his wife, Jill, went to see on their first date.

The state dinner in a marquee in the White House gardens included Maine lobster with caviar, and beef and triple-cooked butter potatoes.

It was followed by American cheese, orange chiffon cake, roasted pears with citrus sauce and crème fraîche ice cream, served with three American wines.



Arming Kyiv leaves Europe chronically short of ammunition

Ukraine

Oliver Moody, Constance Kampfner

Europe is facing a "dramatic" shortage of ammunition and may not have enough manufacturing capacity until the second half of this decade, Estonia's most senior defence official has warned.

Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine the continent's arsenals of basic munitions were running low after more than 20 years of gearing up for high-tech counterinsurgency missions rather than sustained land warfare at high intensity.

Since February Nato's European members have further depleted their reserves by pledging or donating well over €10 billion of military aide to the Ukrainians, including millions of rounds for firearms, hundreds of thousands of artillery shells and tens of thousands of shoulder-mounted rockets. Many are no longer able to meet their Nato obligation to retain enough ammunition to fight a land war for 30 days, raising concerns that they may not be able to keep up the flow of arms to Kyiv at the same time as replenishing their own forces.

Kusti Salm, permanent secretary of the Estonian defence ministry, said Europe was now paying the price for the "irresponsible" failure to prepare for a Ukraine-style conflict.

"The past two decades in the national defence of Nato allies have been very much focused on the out-of-area operations where the ammunition requirements are not as large, which has translated into very low ammunition stocks," he said after a meeting with his British counterparts in London.

"It's clearly unfortunate, in Estonia's view, given the much more conventional threats. We would also call it irresponsible. But now it's not really time to play the blame game. Now it's time to find solutions."

Just about every significant variety of ammunition is scarce. The 155mm shells used by modern western artillery guns in Ukraine such as the German Panzerhaubitze 2000 and most American howitzers are in desperately short supply. Gaps are even beginning to appear in the vast stockpiles of the US military. Supplies of missiles for warships such as the Tomahawk and Harpoon, medium-range multiple rocket launchers, and shoulder-mounted Javelin and Stinger systems are dwindling.

On Sunday the Wall Street Journal reported that Washington had fallen behind on $5 billion worth of arms deliveries to Taiwan, including 208 Javelins and 215 Stingers, none of which has yet materialised.

German defence industry sources said there were also widespread shortages of tank shells and the various medium-calibre rounds used in automatic cannons on armoured vehicles.

Germany is in particular trouble. It needs to procure another €20 billion to €30 billion worth of ammunition simply to meet its Nato requirements. Some analysts estimate that the German armed forces, known as the Bundeswehr, would run out of munitions after as little as two days of combat.

"Even before February 24 it was clear that Germany has a long way to go to meet its Nato targets in the realm of ammunition," Sara Nanni, the Green party's defence spokeswoman in the Bundestag, said. "But it's not clear to me why we didn't set every lever in motion to make things move faster after February 24 at the very latest."

Despite a €100 billion rearmament fund, only €1.1 billion has so far been earmarked for buying ammunition over the coming year, with political leaders blaming the arms industry for reacting too slowly and munitions manufacturers accusing the government of dithering in a tangle of red tape.

European governments are now trying to revive their degraded military industrial bases but many, like Germany, have yet to place significant orders for ammunition. Arms manufacturers are also struggling with inflationary headwinds from high energy prices, a tight market for skilled labour, the rising cost of raw materials and bottlenecks in the supply of more advanced components such as semiconductors.

Salm added: "The realistic expectation is that if we start moving very fast now the problem will be solved in 2025 or later, which is already a very dramatic situation. But every single day we wait, the timeline will just slip more to the right."

Spanish PM revealed as a target in spate of letter bomb attacks

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The Spanish prime minister was targeted in a letter bomb campaign that is thought to have been responsible for six devices, including one that exploded at Ukraine's embassy in Madrid on Wednesday.

Pedro Sánchez's office received a letter addressed to him containing an explosive device on November 24, the interior ministry said. The envelope contained "pyrotechnic material" and was "detected and neutralised by the security services". Sánchez has voiced strong support for the Ukrainian war effort. He hosted a Nato summit in Madrid in June, four months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

There are now six letters under investigation and security around public and diplomatic buildings has been stepped up.

A letter bomb was sent to the Zaragoza headquarters of Instalaza, a manufacturer of grenade launchers that have been supplied to Ukraine. Police bomb experts safely disposed of the device on Wednesday.

A suspect device was also sent to a European Union satellite centre at an air force base in Torrejon de Ardoz, outside Madrid. After an x-ray scan of the envelope, air force security officers determined it contained "a mechanism". The centre supports the EU's common foreign and security policy by gathering information from space intelligence devices, according to its website.

The US embassy in Madrid was sent a package with pyrotechnic material of "similar characteristics" to the others, the interior ministry said. It arrived at about midday yesterday and was detected and safely neutralised.

Yesterday the headquarters of the defence ministry's security services also said it had received a letter bomb. El Mundo newspaper reported that the envelope sent to the ministry contained an incendiary rather than an explosive device.

The Russian embassy in Madrid condemned the letter bombs, tweeting that "any threat or terrorist attack, especially those directed at diplomatic missions, are totally condemnable".

The letter bomb sent to the Ukrainian embassy was said to have been addressed to Serhii Pohoreltsev, the ambassador. Mercedes Gonzalez, the Spanish government's representative for the Madrid community, said that a security officer took it to the garden. "As soon as he opened it he heard something click and instantly threw it away," Gonzalez said. "If it had not been for his quick reaction, the consequences would have been much more serious."

China rethinks zero-tolerance Covid strategy after protests

China
Wendy Tang Hong Kong

China's top official in charge of Covid-19 controls has signalled a new chapter in the country's zero-tolerance strategy as cities move to relax some measures after rare public protests.

Sun Chunlan, a vice-premier, who has led the battle against the coronavirus for the past three years, acknowledged for the first time that the Omicron variant is more transmissible but less deadly than others, according to the state news agency Xinhua.

Sun made no mention of the "dynamic zero-Covid" policy in her latest remarks, suggesting that the approach that has disrupted the economy and daily life for China's 1.4 billion people may soon be relaxed.

The authorities had argued that mass testing, sudden lockdowns and travel restrictions remained necessary in China as the new variant risked causing too many deaths.

Frustration at the measures boiled over at the weekend, with protests in several cities on a scale not witnessed since the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989. A large proportion of the population has remained confined to their homes or forced to undergo regular testing as the rest of the world opens up.

The authorities have vowed to crack down on any dissent by "hostile forces", and reports suggest those arrested in connection with the unrest have been detained for days or had their phones confiscated by police.

Among them is a 27-year-old man, given the alias "Wang", who led calls for President Xi to step down at a protest in Shanghai and has not been seen since being arrested on Sunday.

On a visit to Beijing yesterday, Charles Michel, the president of the European Council, said he had brought up the issue of the protests when he met the Chinese president and also raised human rights issues, including the right to assemble. He said Europe would be willing to provide vaccines to China, should officials in Beijing agree to it.

As well as erecting barricades and deploying security forces to maintain order, cities across China have been urged to take a more targeted approach to tackle outbreaks, fine-tuning 20 measures imposed to control rising cases almost three weeks ago.

Local officials in Beijing, where student protesters called for freedom and criticised Xi, said they would scale back daily testing requirements by exempting the elderly, students, teachers and others working from home this week. Public venues will still require a negative test result within 48 hours, however.

Residents in the capital will be told that people with positive test results can quarantine at home and neighbours should self-monitor — instead of being compelled to go to a quarantine facility or be placed in lockdown. "We also suggest residents to purchase medicines and antigen testing kits, and keep testing yourself," a notice said.

Guangzhou, a manufacturing hub in southern China, also lifted some measures after residents rebelled against weeks-long lockdowns, indicating that some close contacts of Covid cases would be allowed to isolate at home rather than in quarantine centres.

Sun suggested that a new vaccination campaign targeting older people would help to mitigate the effects of the virus in the "new situation" facing the country. She insisted the government has "always put people's health and safety first, and effectively dealt with the uncertainties of the Covid-19 situation with a consistent strategy and flexible measures to fight the virus".

Up to a fifth of China's economy is affected by the zero-Covid measures, including vegetable farmers who are unable to sell produce in large cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin in the north, where local markets have been closed and supply chains are cut off.

Having previously lauded Xi's success in minimising illness and deaths compared with the West, the Chinese media seems to be tweaking its narrative on pandemic controls, emphasising that people can recover from an infection.

The Beijing News interviewed two 87-year-olds who have underlying heart and lung conditions but recovered from Covid, reporting that the illness was "like a bad cold".

Opposition activists have taken heart from this week's demonstrations. Speaking from Tokyo, Wang Dan, a leader of the Tiananmen Square protests, who was jailed and then exiled in the ensuing crackdown, said the latest dissent exploded Beijing's narrative of a "harmonious society" and could signal a new "protest era".

UPI/ALAMY



Biggest fan **Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith at the premiere of his new film, Emancipation, the true story of a slave who escaped and joined the Union Army**

Ramaphosa found guilty of 'serious violations'

South Africa
Jane Flanagan

President Ramaphosa was last night considering his position after a panel of legal experts found he had committed "serious violations" of South Africa's constitution, his oath of office and anti-corruption laws in the handling of a large sum of cash stolen from his farm.

The inquiry appointed by parliament was damning of Ramaphosa in its report, which prompted resignation demands among high-ranking enemies in the ruling African National Congress.

It looked increasingly unlikely that Ramaphosa could survive, even if MPs do not support a formal impeachment process against him when they meet next week to study the findings.

The panel identified "troubling features" in the president's account about the scandal that emerged in June when his former spy chief, Arthur Fraser, filed a complaint with police alleging that Ramaphosa had concealed a $4 million cash theft at his ranch in 2020. The complaint said that the president concealed the burglary and organised for the suspected perpetrators to be kidnapped and bribed into silence.

In his submission to the inquiry, Ramaphosa confirmed the theft at his farm and said the source of the cash had been the sale of 20 buffalo for $580,000 to a Sudanese businessman. The panel reported: "We think that the president has a case to answer on the origin of the foreign currency that was stolen, as well as the underlying transaction for it."

The panel also found that Ramaphosa had "abused his position as head of state" to seek assistance with the investigation into the theft from President Geingob of Namibia.

After the report's publication, Ramaphosa repeated his denial of any wrongdoing and said he would consider its findings "in the interest of the stability of government and that of the country".

UN asks for a record $51.5bn funding

Switzerland
Joshua Thurston

The United Nations has appealed for a record amount of funding for humanitarian aid next year, as 65 million more people have been driven into crisis by the Ukraine war and other conflicts, climate emergencies and the pandemic.

"It's a phenomenal number and it's a depressing number," Martin Griffiths, UN aid chief, told reporters in Geneva, referring to the $51.5 billion being sought. "Next year is going to be the biggest humanitarian programme."

Griffiths, 71, is a former British diplomat and UN envoy to Yemen who was appointed last year by António Guterres, the body's secretary-general. Announcing an annual appeal for funding, Griffiths described humanitarian needs around the world as "shockingly high".

He added: "Lethal droughts and floods are wreaking havoc in communities from Pakistan to the Horn of Africa," while the war in Ukraine "has turned a part of Europe into a battlefield". The UN estimates that 339 million people worldwide will need emergency aid next year, equivalent to one in every 23 people on the planet, compared with one in 95 in 2015.

If all the people in need of emergency assistance were in one country, it would be the third largest nation in the world after China and India, Griffiths said.

Donor funding is already under strain, however, and only half the amount requested for this year has been raised, according to estimates.



ALAMY; HOTEL FORMENTOR



Hotel Formentor, once an oasis of art deco luxury on the northern tip of Mallorca, hosted celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor, below



Hotel of a golden era ‘demolished illegally’

An elegant 1920s hotel in a spectacular corner of Mallorca, which was a favourite of Winston Churchill, royalty and Hollywood stars, is being demolished illegally, opposition groups allege (Isambard Wilkinson writes).

Set among pine trees on the shore of a Unesco-protected peninsula on the northern tip of the Balearic island, the three-storey Hotel Formentor, which until “renovations” started had a white-washed exterior and art deco interior, has been almost entirely demolished. Once a symbol of Mallorca’s tourism industry, it played host to guests including Elizabeth Taylor, Charlie Chaplin, Ava Gardner, the Dalai Lama and the King and Queen of Spain. The “architectural classic”, as a Times writer described it, was seen as an oasis of peace and understated luxury.

Planning officials had granted the new owners permission to to carry out renovations. But anger grew as it became clear the Emin Capital investment fund, which bought the 3,000-acre site for €165 million in 2020, intended to demolish it. The fund signed a deal for it to be managed by Four Seasons Hotels.

Environmentalists and local politicians lodged demands to stop the work, without success. “The licence they have is to reform it, but if the hotel no longer exists, there is nothing to reform. They did what they wanted,” Miquel Àngel March, a former local mayor, said. “Demolishing the hotel would mean giving them a new building licence, and in Formentor they are not being issued, to conserve this natural and protected enclave of Mallorca.”

Andrés Nevado, the mayor, signed a decree in October to halt the works and announced an investigation. Four days later he signed a decree granting the licence to legalise the demolition. The developer has sought to obtain a new licence to reconstruct the exterior walls.

An Emin Capital director said last year they would “pull the hotel down and build a new one”. The fund said recently: “From the beginning of this project all the work carried out meets the legal requirements and has permits necessary to carry them out.”

EU’s metaverse party is a costly flop as only six people show up

European Union
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

The much vaunted metaverse is a virtual world of immersive experiences and transhuman avatars but, as the European Union has discovered, it can be a real-life disaster.

After spending €387,000 on creating a virtual world to promote the EU’s “global gateway” development projects, officials hoped to introduce young people to the website with a gala night of “music and fun” .

“Are you ready to party?” asked the invitation to Tuesday night’s event.

Only a handful of people, appearing as avatars, turned up.

“I’m here at the ‘gala’,” tweeted Vince Chadwick, a journalist for Devex, a news website for the development and NGO sector. “After initial bemused chats with the roughly five other humans who showed up, I am alone.”



Avatars roam an island dominated by a sculpture of a “virus” shot putter

Officials from the EU’s External Action Service face tough questions from diplomats at a meeting next week on their “communication strategy”.

The EU’s “global gateway” aims to raise more than €300 billion by 2027 in infrastructure investment for the developing world to try to counter China’s influence in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. “They must be wetting themselves with laughter in Beijing,” one diplomat said. “It would be funny if it were not a serious project, and if we had not paid for it all.”

The commission said the project was aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds “who identify as neutral about the EU and are not particularly engaged in political issues. After logging in users choose an avatar called Diphi, Jabi, Boeki or Kafi that looks like an alien robot insect, or even a garish cyberman from *Doctor Who*.

They are then taken to a tropical island where, to the sound of birdsong, they roam a surreal landscape dominated by a permanent beach party. As thumping dance songs blare out, computer-generated avatars wave their multiple limbs while dancing on raised platforms. Above it all a giant red statue of a shot putter, rendered in heroic Soviet style, looms, tensed and poised to throw a heavy shot. Except instead of an iron shot, his ball is a menacing-looking coronavirus. If contact is made with the statue, a voice explains that it is by Diadji Diop, a Senegalese artist based in France, representing “humanity’s timeless struggle against disease”. Avatars can walk on water as dolphins leap through the air around them and drones hover bearing message screens flashing words such as “education”, “public health” and “#WhoWeAre”. Open books are installed on a liquid floor as a “symbol of the human journey towards knowledge”.

The word metaverse was first used in the cult 1992 science fiction novel *Snow Crash* by Neal Stephenson to depict a virtual internet realm where individuals appear as avatars. The concept has been taken by Facebook, rebranded as Meta, as “the next evolution in social connection and the successor to the mobile internet”. The EU metaverse opened in mid-October and official user figures are not yet available.

Bear on the menu is too grisly for animal lovers

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

A restaurant in Italy that put bear stew on the menu has received bookings from curious diners but has also had death threats from animal lovers.

The Al Puntic restaurant in Travesio, northeast Italy, experimented with bear stew and polenta for €18 after Monica Paccagnella, the manager, tried it, describing the taste as “between roe deer and red deer, but sweeter”. The meat was bought across the border in Slovenia, where bear hunting is legal and authorised butchers can sell it.

In Italy, where bears are a protected species, the decision was met with outrage. Michela Vittoria Brambilla, a leading animal rights activist, called the decision “abhorrent and immoral”.

“Importing the flesh of bears killed in Slovenia is a moral crime against nature, which I wholly condemn,” said Brambilla, a former government minister and head of the Leidaa animal rights group. On social media a person in Brescia told staff at the restaurant: “If you were in Brescia I would put you on the menu, not the bear.”

Davide Petralia, the restaurant’s lawyer, said: “These reactions could be considered threatening and defamatory and we will be defending the reputation of the restaurant. All the meat was imported totally legally.”

Paccagnella told Il Gazzettino, a newspaper, that she was upset by the reaction. “They have said we hate animals. That’s absurd. We keep donkeys, which we really love,” she said.

Despite the backlash, Il Gazzettino reported that the restaurant was enjoying brisk trade as customers queued up to sample bear meat for the first time.

Experts say bears that feed on berries taste better than those that feed on salmon, whose meat can taste fishy.

In 2011, police broke up a bear banquet in the Dolomites by the League party because the Slovenian meat did not have the right documentation.

Defendant’s chat with Pope leaked

Vatican
Tom Kington Rome

A fraud trial at the Vatican has taken an unusual turn with the leaking of a secretly recorded phone call between an accused cardinal and Pope Francis.

Italian news sites posted the tape on Wednesday of Cardinal Angelo Becciu — one of ten defendants on trial — phoning Francis to defend his innocence, claiming: “They accuse me of tricking you,” and begging for his help.

Police found the recording on the phone of a friend of the Sardinian cardinal as well as a message in which he claims the Pope “wants me dead”.

Becciu was fired by the Pope in 2020 amid an inquiry into his involvement in a loss-making Vatican investment in a block of flats in Chelsea, London.

Investigators also allege that Vatican cash used by Becciu to free a nun held hostage by al-Qaeda-linked militants in Africa was embezzled by a consultant who bought furniture and handbags.

Three days before the trial started in July last year, Becciu rang Francis to urge him to publicly admit he had authorised a cash payment to the London-based security firm Inkerman to help free the nun.

He tells Francis: “I cannot call you as a witness in court — I would never allow myself to do that. But there needs to a be a statement from you.” He adds: “How can I defend myself?”

The Pope, who had left hospital after surgery days earlier, sounds frail and asks Becciu to put his request in writing.

Becciu, who has denied all wrongdoing, is also under investigation on suspicion of embezzling Vatican cash for charity work in Sardinia.

I will tear the ass off tearaways, says sheriff

A controversial Florida sheriff has announced a crackdown on school discipline, vowing that pupils need to fear having "the cheeks of their ass torn off" if they misbehave in class (Jacqui Goddard writes).

Standing outside Brevard county jail in Cocoa, Sheriff Wayne Ivey — a disciple of the Constitutional Sheriffs movement, whose members consider themselves above the courts and the US president when it comes to interpreting the law — said that schools could expect "a brand new day". He added: "If you're a student that's coming to our schools to learn, to play sports, to do music — your prayers have been answered today. But if you're a little snot that is coming to our classes to be disruptive, you might want to find another school because we will be your worst nightmare — starting now."

Ivey was flanked by the new chairman of Brevard county school board, Matt Susin, and the district's state attorney as he announced plans for "the most prolific school discipline policy this district has ever had".

Ivey posts a weekly "wheel of fugitives" video on social media, in which he spins a wheel featuring mugshots of criminals to select a "fugitive of the week", accompanied by a rock soundtrack.



BREVARD SHERIFF/YOUTUBE

Sheriff Wayne Ivey posts a weekly "wheel of fugitives" video on social media featuring mugshots of criminals, accompanied by a rock soundtrack

School pupils who act up "know they're not going to be given after-school detention, they're not going to be suspended, they're not going to be expelled — or, like in the old days, they're not going to have the cheeks of their ass torn off for not doing right in class", Ivey said.

"A few clowns can't follow the rules and they're messing it up for everybody."

The Federation of Teachers, which has complained of rising violence against teachers, welcomed attention to the problem but emphasised that solutions must "help, not harm; solve issues, not create more".



Immerse yourself in Japan's historical treasures and cultural wonders on this extensive tour that explores the country's most spectacular landscapes, including the iconic Mount Fuji and the Japanese Alps.

18 DAYS FROM £7,090* per person

Starting in vibrant Osaka, you'll explore Japan's main island, Honshu, ending up amongst the bright lights and sky-scraping towers of capital Tokyo. En route you'll see and experience the very best of what Japan has to offer: learn about the history of Kyoto, the charms of ancient Nara; and Hiroshima, where you'll be able to reflect on the tragic events of the past whilst discovering the city's bright future. Expect plenty of traditional Japanese experiences, from a tea ceremony to washi paper making and, depending on your departure date, a sumo wrestling tournament.

When booking this tour with The Times Travel Offers, you will get an exclusive complimentary pre-tour extension including an extra hotel night with dinner and breakfast included and a sushi-making class - make sure to quote TIMES-ON when booking.

Departures
March 2023 to November 2024

Price Includes
- ✓ International flights and current taxes
- ✓ Touring with Guides and entrance fees
- ✓ Exclusive free pre-tour extension including a hotel night with dinner and breakfast and sushi-making class
- ✓ All meals
- ✓ Domestic transportation, including bullet train to Kyoto
- ✓ All accommodation throughout the tour

CALL TODAY ON
0808 258 9098
QUOTE TIMES-ON
thetimes.co.uk/japan-ww

Our Trusted Partner
Wendy Wu Tours

ABTA Travel with confidence

*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Flights on holidays booked more than 11 months in advance may be subject to supplements when airline fares are published. ^The offer is available on new bookings confirmed on selected Spring 2023 departures between 14 November and 15 December 2022, subject to availability of space on the tours and availability of flights. The offer is subject to availability and Wendy Wu Tours reserve the right to change or withdraw the offer. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Wendy Wu, ABTA W7994 ATOL 6639, a company wholly independent of News UK.

Trump's tax returns finally handed over to Democrats

United States
David Charter Washington

Donald Trump's tax returns have finally been handed over to a US congressional committee after his three-and-a-half-year legal battle to keep them private.

The US Treasury confirmed that it had complied with a court order to release six years of tax returns from 2013-18 to the House of Representatives' ways and means committee.

Trump, 76, refused to release the data when he ran for office or while he was in the White House, claiming it would not be appropriate because they were "under audit", raising suspicions that he had something to hide. Democrats, who control the committee until the new Congress convenes on January 3, were considering last night whether to release the information publicly.

Meanwhile, a civil tax fraud trial in New York of the Trump Organisation entered its closing stages with lawyers for Trump arguing that numerous examples of untaxed benefits were the result of greed by the chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg, who is the chief prosecution witness.

While releasing tax returns is not required by law of presidential candidates, all previous presidents from Jimmy Carter onwards have published them, as have their main rivals.

Trump, who announced last month that he is running for the 2024 Republican nomination, fought the release all the way to the Supreme Court, which declined to overrule an appeals court judgment that the committee should receive them from the Inland Revenue Service.

Leaks of Trump's tax returns to The New York Times in 2020 showed that he paid no tax in ten out of 15 years before he came to office in 2017. He paid $750 in federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the presidency, and another $750 in his first year in the White House. In 2017 Forbes put Trump's worth at $3.1 billion.

Former Trump associates have claimed that his business secured loans from foreign countries. President Biden released 21 years of tax returns during his campaign.

Trump's re-election campaign continues to suffer setbacks, with the incoming Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu calling Trump's dinner with the singer Kanye West, now known as Ye, and the far-right activist Nick Fuentes, a "mistake". Both guests at Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Florida are known to have made antisemitic remarks.

Ye prompted more outrage yesterday when he declared his love of Nazis and admiration for Adolf Hitler during a rambling livestream with the conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. "I like Hitler," he said. "I love Nazis." He complained that his accounts had been "frozen by Jewish banks".

Netanyahu said: "I condemned Kanye West's antisemitic statements. President Trump's decision to dine with this person is wrong and misplaced. He made a mistake. I hope it's not repeated." Trump has said that Ye "expressed no antisemitism" and that he did not previously know Fuentes.

Netanyahu added that he was "unabashedly appreciative" of Trump, who "has been a tremendous supporter of Israel … and the Jewish people".

Festival conman has new island project

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

The convicted conman behind the Fyre music festival disaster has announced plans for a new event in the Bahamas, despite the local government warning he is not welcome.

Billy McFarland spent almost four years in prison after admitting defrauding investors of $26 million related to his founding of the music festival, which was billed as being luxurious but resulted in attendees being stranded on a beach.

The thousands of people who were sold a luxury festival on a private Caribbean island turned up one weekend in April 2017 to find a gravel building site, white disaster relief tents and piles of mattresses.

McFarland, 30, has unveiled a new project, which he describes as not a festival or event and "definitely not the metaverse".

Instead PYRT – pronounced "pirate" – is, according to McFarland, a "technology I've been working on for the past few years called the VID/R: the virtual immersive decentralised reality".

McFarland gave details of the project in a TikTok video and said he will partner with a "small, remote destination" to host a "handful of artists, content creators, entrepreneurs".

He said PYRT will include a virtual replica of the island "where anybody from around the world" can join in.

McFarland pointed to a "virtual map" of an island and said another map showed one of his "favourite islands in the Exumas" in the Bahamas.

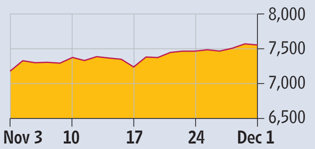
Some workers in the Bahamas were not paid for the Fyre festival and the local government released a letter last month warning McFarland that he was not welcome.

It called him a "fugitive" with "several pending complaints" against him with the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

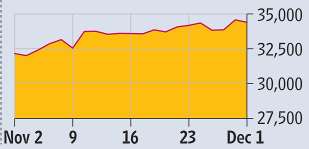
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,558.49 (-14.56) ▼



Dow Jones
34,395.01 (-194.76) ▼



COMMODITIES

Gold
$1,802 (+48.94) ▲



Brent crude (6pm)
$88.07 (+2.71) ▲



CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2250 (+0.0296) ▲



£/€
€1.1669 (+0.0085) ▲



I got a little cocky, admits crypto exchange founder after collapse

Katie Prescott

The founder of the collapsed crypto exchange FTX has said he "got a little cocky" and had not spent "any time or effort" thinking about risk management at the bankrupt company, which owes $3.1 billion to its biggest creditors.

Sam Bankman-Fried, 30, rejected comparisons to the convicted fraudster Bernie Madoff and said he was not running a Ponzi scheme because he had a "real" business. He insisted: "I did not know that there was any improper use of customer funds."

The discredited former billionaire has been conducting a round of high-profile media appearances to tell his side of the story, much to the irritation of administrators working to salvage what is left of the business.

Speaking to ABC's *Good Morning America*, Bankman-Fried said he was not worried about possibly going to jail. "I'm trying to focus on what I can do going forward to be helpful and let whatever regulatory and legal processes are happening play out," he said.

FTX, a widely used crypto exchange based in the Bahamas, was once valued at $32 billion. It collapsed last month after facing billions in customer withdrawals, prompted by rumours about the state of its balance sheet.

Its poor business practices were laid bare in bankruptcy court filings and included purchases of holiday homes in the Bahamas for staff and payments signed off on social media platforms by emojis. Bankman-Fried was given a $1 billion loan by the business which he told ABC was for "reinvesting in the company and not for consumption".

George Stephanopoulos, the ABC presenter, said the two-hour interview pre-recorded in the Bahamas "felt like a therapy session" and that the former crypto baron "had a lot to get off his chest". There were points where he was at a loss to answer the question, such as when talking about how customer deposits with FTX were used to plug holes in its trading arm, Alameda.

While his lawyers advised him to keep quiet, he told Andrew Ross Sorkin of The New York Times: "I have a duty to talk to people. I have a duty to explain what happened and I think I have a duty to do everything I can to try and do what's right."

Ex-CMA boss to take job at consultancy

Coscelli's Keystone role raises conflict fears

Alex Ralph

The former head of the competition regulator is set to take a job at a US consultancy where he will advise on anti-trust issues.

Andrea Coscelli, who stepped down as chief executive of the Competition and Markets Authority in July after six years, will set up a new London office as co-head in Europe of Keystone Strategy.

In a move that will raise concerns over conflict of interest, Coscelli will advise Keystone and its clients on competition issues that are investigated by the CMA.

Keystone has previously carried out unpaid work for the regulator, helping it to source digital experts and provide an overview of the technical aspects of the digital advertising market. It is a consultancy to tech companies, government agencies and law firms, and has worked with large multinationals including Uber, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook and Pfizer.

Whitehall's Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (Acoba) has advised that several conditions be placed on Coscelli's appointment to "mitigate the potential risks to the government".

They include a two-year ban on providing advice to Keystone or its clients on matters under consideration by the CMA when he was chief executive and personally lobbying the regulator or the government, to help "mitigate the risk he may be seen to offer Keystone and its clients any unfair access and influence on regulatory matters".

Coscelli, 53, is due to take up his new position on January 3, having been prevented from doing so for six months.

In a 13-page letter after a review of his appointment, the committee said that as chief executive of the CMA Coscelli had "significant knowledge of privileged material". He was at the heart of regulation of competition and markets, including investigating mergers, entire markets, tackling cartels and anti-competitive behaviour and encouraging the government and other regulators to use competition effectively on behalf of consumers.

Acoba said there was a "reasonable concern he could be perceived to unfairly influence the CMA in any decisions it makes for the benefit of Keystone or its clients", but added that the CMA's "quasi-judicial role and statutory footing does help to limit the risks". The committee also said Coscelli and the CMA had "confirmed there were no policy, regulatory or funding decisions he made that were specific to Keystone".

The committee's chairman is Lord Pickles, the Conservative life peer and former minister, and it is tasked with considering applications under the business appointment rules about new jobs for former ministers and senior civil servants. It has faced criticism in the past for being a "paper tiger" in managing a "revolving door" between Westminster and lucrative jobs in the private sector.

Coscelli told the committee that "my expectation is that I will work on strategy, antitrust and regulatory matters advising companies, law firms and government agencies in the UK, Europe and outside Europe. I will obviously respect any client conflicts arising from my work at the CMA."

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES



Gabrielle Union attending a premiere at Cineworld Leicester Square last month; there is speculation the cinema chain could be split up and sold off next year

Vue has its sights on Cineworld

Dominic Walsh

Britain's third-biggest cinema chain is ready to swoop on a rival in a "huge consolidation play" ahead of a possible stock market flotation.

Tim Richards, who founded Vue International in 1999, confirmed that the company was ready to take advantage of any opportunities that presented themselves as speculation mounts that Cineworld could be broken up.

"We've done 14 deals in the last 20 years," Richards said. "[Mergers and acquisitions] is a part of the business we're very good at. There are going to be opportunities for M&A activity of all sizes and scale in the next 18 months."

Vue, which trails behind Odeon and Cineworld, has 91 venues across the UK and Ireland with 870 screens. Overall, it has 227 sites in nine countries with 10,000 employees.

The group's ambitions are perhaps surprising given that it is only a few months since it went through a £1 billion restructuring that wiped out both its Canadian backers and management's 26 per cent equity stake.

Omers and Alberta Investment Management Corporation ceded control of the company to its lenders under a debt-for-equity swap that converted £465 million of debt into equity and gave the company an additional £75 million of liquidity to recapitalise it.

At the time the biggest lenders, according to data from Bloomberg, were Barings, Invesco, Dryden Leveraged Loan CDO and Carlyle.

Richards, 63, acknowledged that the lenders would not be long-term holders of the equity, although when asked if he would need to find fresh shareholders to back his ambitions, he replied: "No. We can participate."

On the prospect of a stock market listing for Vue he said: "I think because of our size and scale, our next exit would likely be a flotation. And that would probably be in a couple of years."

Cineworld's problems, which have been caused by a combination of the

Continued on page 44

Need to know

1 House prices fell in November at a pace not seen since early in the pandemic as elevated mortgage rates triggered by the mini-budget fiasco deterred buyers. The average price of a UK house fell 1.4 per cent to £263,788 compared with the previous month, according to latest figures from Nationwide. Page 31

2 The former head of the competition regulator is set to take a job at a US consultancy where he will advise on anti-trust issues. Andrea Coscelli, who left the Competition and Markets Authority in July after six years, will set up a London office as co-head in Europe of Keystone Strategy. Page 43

3 Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of the collapsed crypto exchange FTX, has said he "got a little cocky" and had not spent "any time or effort" thinking about risk management at the company, which owes $3.1 billion to its biggest creditors. Page 43

4 Britain's third biggest cinema chain is set to swoop on a rival in a "huge consolidation play" ahead of a possible flotation. Tim Richards, who founded Vue International in 1999, said it would take opportunities as speculation mounts that Cineworld could be broken up. Page 43

5 Peel Hunt barely clung on to profitability over the past six months, in a "lousy year" for company flotations and corporate fundraisings. This time last year the broker's investment bankers were toasting a record half-year performance.

6 The rail regulator has given the green light for a new company to set up as a rival to Great Western Railway. The Office of Rail and Road said Grand Union Trains could run five trains a day between Paddington and Carmarthen, via Cardiff.

7 Investor sentiment towards China is "dire", a leading fund manager says. The zero-Covid policy, property wobble, souring geopolitical relations and slowing growth were all hitting confidence, according to Dale Nicholls, who has run Fidelity China Special Situations since 2014. Page 46

8 Spread betting firms are not doing enough to identify and report suspected insider dealers, the Financial Conduct Authority has said, as it launched a wider crackdown. The regulator said it was concerned at the level of suspicious activity by users of firms offering spread bets and contracts for difference. Page 49

9 Joules has been bought out of administration by Next and the fashion retailer's founder Tom Joule in a deal that will safeguard 1,450 jobs. Next has agreed to buy about 100 Joules shops for £34 million in a sale led by the administrators. Page 51

10 The UK's first mainstream commercial vehicle to be powered by hydrogen fuel cells will be built at the Toyota plant in Derbyshire, holding out the prospect that the Japanese group will choose Britain as its European manufacturing centre for zero-emission vehicles. Page 53

Peel Hunt's profits plunge in 'lousy year'

Tom Howard

Peel Hunt barely clung on to profitability over the past six months, leaving the City stockbroker ready to see the back of what has been a "lousy year" for company flotations and corporate fundraisings.

This time last year the group's investment bankers were toasting a record half-year performance as they cashed in on the booming market for initial public offerings. Their fees were also topped up by numerous fundraisings as businesses tried either to expand or to dig themselves out of a pandemic-sized hole.

So far in 2022, however, there has been a dearth of initial public offerings and far fewer companies are leaning on Peel Hunt to help them to raise money, many having endured steep falls in their valuations this year. In the first half of the year only five companies joined the London Stock Exchange, compared with 37 in the same period last year. Similarly, UK businesses tapped equity investors for less than £8 billion in the first half, a quarter of what they raised last time around.

Share price since flotation



The slump in activity was borne out in Peel Hunt's results. For the six months to the end of September the broker turned a pre-tax profit of £100,000, down 99.7 per cent on the £29.5 million it posted in the first half of its previous financial year. Interim revenues almost halved from a record £71.4 million to £41.1 million.

The collapse in profitability was mainly brought on by the 64 per cent drop in fees in its investment banking division to £11.9 million, which last year was its biggest revenue driver.

"It's pretty obvious that it's been a lousy year," Steven Fine, Peel Hunt's chief executive, said. "We're very much geared to the capital markets cycle, which has stopped. I think most people will probably be quite pleased to get this calendar year out of the way."

The shares closed down 4½p, or 5.4 per cent, at 78½p, valuing the business at about £100 million. When it floated in September last year it was valued at £280 million.

Peel Hunt was founded in 1989 by Charles Peel and Christopher Holdsworth Hunt. It is now the favoured broker and adviser for dozens of smaller London-listed companies, although it also counts 36 FTSE 350 companies as clients. Its main activity is helping businesses to list on the stock market or raise money, but it also offers research services and processes about a third of all retail investor trades.

Fine and his team believe that equity capital markets activity is at "multi-decade lows". That, they said, was because cautious investors were moving their money out of equities and into other assets such as bonds, the returns on which were now picking up.

Fine said some institutional investors had been "building up [their] cash positions" amid the economic and political uncertainty, adding: "There have been concerns over interest rates, inflation and the cost of living and then there was the war in Ukraine in February. That kind of stopped everything and led to a big de-rating of public markets."

Over the past few weeks Peel Hunt has had an increase in trading volumes, although it expects that transactional activity will remain "challenging" for a while yet. Fine is hopeful but not certain that there will be a pick-up in deals and IPOs early next year.

"I think there are [companies wanting to float], the question is just whether investors are willing to match the valuations that companies want," he said.

Fine accepted that the recent jump in interest rates had "inevitably created short-term challenges" but said that it might actually end up boosting equity markets by ending a "decade of cheap debt" that could prompt businesses to turn back to the stock market to fund their ambitions.



AJ Bell said in September that Baroness Morrissey was stepping down after only

Clients spending less

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The DIY investment platform AJ Bell has reported a bigger than expected rise in annual profits despite signs that the cost of living crisis is starting to put pressure on customers' ability to invest.

Michael Summersgill, chief executive, said existing clients of the group's platform arm had been putting less money into the service as inflation has soared and eroded the spare cash that households have to invest.

The average annual contribution by existing customers was £13,000 in 2021 but this had fallen to £10,000 in the 12 months to the end of September.

Have-a-go investors are also turning more cautious and trading less, pushing revenues from transactional fees down 19 per cent year on year to £31.9 million.

Despite this, pre-tax profit at the FTSE 250-listed group rose by a bigger than expected 6 per cent to £58.4 million on revenues that were up 12 per cent at £163.8 million. AJ Bell has been buoyed by the increased interest it earns on cash as rates rise, which has bolstered its revenue margins.

It expects to enjoy a similar lift in its current financial year and yesterday raised its guidance to the stock market. It expects margins of 45 basis points on its direct to consumer division, up from

Pound's rally against dollar gathers pace

Emma Taggart

The pound rose to its highest level against the dollar since early August yesterday as traders bet that the pace of rate rises in the US was about to slow.

Sterling rose more than 1.5 per cent to $1.23 yesterday after a speech on Wednesday night by Jerome Powell in which the chairman of the Federal Reserve hinted that the central bank was about to ease off the rate rise pedal.

The Fed has made its most aggressive monetary tightening since the 1980s, raising its benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points at the past four meetings. Money markets are pricing in a 77 per cent chance that the Fed raises rates by 50 basis points on December 14.

In November the pound rose 5 per cent against the dollar, its largest rally since 2020. Other currencies, including the euro and the yen, also strengthened against the dollar last month.

The pound rose 2.7 per cent against the dollar in October after Rishi Sunak replaced Liz Truss as prime minister. The latest rally caps a sharp turnaround in the fortunes of sterling, which has had a tumultuous few months.

On September 26 the pound sank to $1.033, a record low against the US currency, just days after Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget with its £45 billion of unfunded tax cuts. Government bonds also fell as investors questioned whether tax cuts could stimulate permanent increases in growth.

The pound recovered after the Bank of England announced an emergency bond-buying programme days after the fiscal statement.

Rising US interest rates have driven money back into dollar assets this year, however a decline in America's inflation rate to 7.7 per cent in October has resulted in the market betting that the Fed will slow the pace of its interest rate increases.

Despite sterling's strong 5 per cent climb against the dollar in November, the recovery is less impressive when compared with its performance against other currencies. The pound declined slightly against the euro in November, while over the course of the year the pound fell 11 per cent against the dollar, a larger decline compared with the euro's 9 per cent fall against the US currency.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

Vue set to swoop on Cineworld

pandemic and a debt-fuelled acquisition spree, have prompted talk that the world's second-biggest cinema group could be split up and sold off next year.

Cineworld, which started life in 1995, has 9,139 screens at 747 sites across ten countries, including the Regal chain in America, which it acquired for $5.8 billion in 2018. It went on to launch a recommended C$2.8 billion takeover of Toronto-based Cineplex, only to pull out after the pandemic hit. Cineplex sued its British suitor, winning a damages award of C$1.23 billion.

One industry insider said: "The competition issues would not be insurmountable."

In America, Cineworld is seeking to push through a significant reduction in its debt under a Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection process.

JOEL GOODMAN FOR THE TIMES



Morrissey steps down

Baroness Morrissey says she is stepping down as chairwoman of AJ Bell with "great regret" after a dispute with the City regulator over the investment platform's abandoned succession plans (Ben Martin writes).

The company surprised the City in September when it revealed that Morrissey intended to leave less than a year after taking charge of the board. She is going after the Financial Conduct Authority raised governance concerns about the proposed role of AJ Bell's co-founder, Andy Bell, who had wanted to become non-executive deputy chairman after stepping down as chief executive.

The watchdog's concerns prompted AJ Bell to scrap its plan, with its founder becoming a consultant instead. The debacle also led to Morrissey tendering her resignation. "Following the conclusion of our dialogue with the FCA, I decided with great regret that I should step down from the board once a successor is found," she said.

Morrissey made a name for herself in the City as a fund manager, rising to become the boss of Newton Investment Management. She has fought for female representation on boards and balanced her career with a family of nine children.

Michael Summersgill, the new chief executive, said it was "a shame" Bell had not been allowed to remain on the board. Asked whether Bell's continuing presence was making it harder for him to run the company, he said: "I wouldn't have put him there as a consultant if it did."

a year as chairwoman. Andy Bell, its founder, who had hoped to be non-executive deputy chairman, will be a consultant

does not alarm AJ Bell's boss

its previous forecast of 36 basis points, and 21 basis points at its advised business, up from 19 basis points.

"The market is likely to take this well," analysts at Jefferies, the stockbroker, said. AJ Bell shares closed down 3.8p, or 1 per cent, at 360p.

The guidance upgrades are a fillip to Summersgill, 38, who is two months into the job. He took over from Andy Bell, who co-founded the Manchester-based group in 1995, when it focused on actuarial, pension and trustee administration for people with self-invested personal pensions (Sipps) and small occupational retirement schemes.

It now runs a platform that is used by 425,652 customers to buy and sell shares, invest in funds and manage their Isas and Sipps. This service enjoyed net inflows of £5.8 billion in the year to September 30, taking total assets under administration at the platform division to £64.1 billion.

Summersgill is a veteran of the company, having become its finance chief in 2011 before being promoted to deputy chief executive last year and then taking the top job.

He said the impact of the cost of living crisis on the group's customers had so far not been significant.

The average amount of money put on to its platform by new clients actually rose to £32,000 from £29,000 in 2021.

Separately, the company also signalled that a long-running dispute with HM Revenue and Customs is close to a conclusion. It relates to tax reclaimed on *in-specie* pension transfers and AJ Bell has set aside £519,000 to cover the tax clash and "costs associated with defending a legal case". It said talks with HMRC were ongoing "with full settlement of payments expected to be completed within the next 12 months".

A year earlier the provision had stood at £1.5 million but £257,000 of it has since been used and £750,000 of it was released because it was not needed.

Tempus, page 54

GWR faces rival on Wales main line

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The rail regulator has given the green light for a new company to set up as a rival to Great Western Railway on the main line from south Wales to London.

The Office of Rail and Road yesterday said that Grand Union Trains could run five trains a day between Paddington and Carmarthen, via Cardiff.

People in the west of Wales have only one direct service a day to London but it makes frequent stops and takes four hours. Other journeys to Carmarthen include changes that include half an hour waits at stations. Grand Union promises faster journeys and lower fares compared with peak prices of £150.

The new company is to be launched as an "open access" operator and financed independently of the Department for Transport.

Such open access operators are offered gaps in the timetables by the rail regulator provided they can show they would be running services ignored or forgotten by the incumbent, government-contracted operator, in this case FirstGroup's GWR business.

Open access operations have proved a success on the east coast main line with three unsubsidised operations: Lumo, which offers cut-price tickets between London and Edinburgh; Hull Trains, which restored direct passenger services to the Humberside port; and Grand Union providing direct services where there were none to stations in Yorkshire and the northeast.

The launch of Grand Union in 2025 will be the first competitor on the great western main line since rail privatisation 25 years ago.

The launch of the service had been blocked by Network Rail because it could not guarantee safe provision of the extra capacity on the line. It was overruled by the watchdog.

Grand Union is the brainchild of Ian Yeowart, an industry veteran who launched Grand Central, before selling it to Arriva.

Yeowart said: "One only has to look at what happens now on the east coast main line, where there are three competing operators, to see the significant benefits that arise when operators face some competition.

"We expect to be able to bring those benefits to the great western main line."

Weak foundations for house prices



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

If only house prices could fall for the right reasons. On Nationwide figures, they've just dropped 1.4 per cent month-on-month in November to £263,788: the fastest slip since those lockdown days of June 2020.

Falling for the third successive month, the drop was bigger than pundits predicted, even if annual house price growth is still chugging along at 4.4 per cent. Economists are broadly forecasting a 10 per cent drop in prices, with Credit Suisse expecting as much as 15 per cent. And, on the face of it, falling prices could indeed look "excellent news" and "fantastic" as some comments from Times readers observed.

Britain's soaraway house prices have long been the biggest cause of intergenerational inequality, not least in London and the southeast. They force young people unable to raise a deposit into the rip-off rental sector or to continue living in the family home: the same generation, incidentally, that in an ageing society is paying homeowners' pensions. In an ideal world, lower house prices are a good thing.

Sadly, that's not what's going on here. The drop is what happens when you layer Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget on top of rising interest rates and trigger a spike in housing costs — pushing two-year fixed mortgage rates above 6 per cent. As Nationwide chief economist, Robert Gardner, puts it: "Affordability for potential buyers and home movers has become much more stretched at a time when household finances are already under pressure from high inflation."

Luckily, we're in a weird recession with unemployment near 50-year lows. But there's still a risk that those most hurt by a price fall will be first-time buyers, finding they have negative equity just when they need to remortgage. Another risk? That, with inflation jacking up build costs — energy, labour, bricks, tiles, cement — and lower prices hitting margins, developers build fewer houses, with tinier ones going bust.

That's the last thing Britain needs. The aim should be lower house prices for the right reason — because we're tackling the housing shortage by building more of them. Which makes the Tory rebellion over targets even more dispiriting. Back as housing secretary, Michael Gove has reinstated the goal of 300,000 new homes a year but more than 60 MPs are kicking off over mandatory targets for local councils in their constituencies. Yes, new developments always trigger local opposition. But it's hard to think of a simpler way for Tory MPs to signal they're not on the side of the asset-poor young.

In the words of one housebuilder, "the planning system has ground almost completely to a halt": fallout from the Chesham & Amersham by-election that brought out the Tories' inner nimby. Votes were lost, they felt, over planning reforms for new houses. But blocking the young from getting on to the housing ladder, is also a vote loser.

Gove needs to find a compromise. The Centre for Policy Studies suggested, for example, "giving local people more control over issues like design and layout". Could they not also be incentivised to allow more affordable housing, where starts fell 7 per cent to 10,986 on the latest six-month figures from Homes England? Of course, long-term all homeowners want to see the value of their houses nudge up. But only extra supply can give more people that opportunity — by keeping the roof on exorbitant prices.

Hellenic high

Floats are thin on the ground just now. So credit to Hellenic Dynamics for giving it a go. The medical cannabis company, growing flowers with THC strains, starts trading on Monday. And some may have already detected a psychoactive effect. Early investors have put in £2 million and the float, handled by Peterhouse Capital, is raising £2.62 million more. But Hellenic's already got a £37.6 million valuation — not bad for a company that's "not generated any revenues".

Still, chief executive Davinder Rai plans to become "the supplier of choice to the NHS"— showing laudable ambition, given his track record so far. Past directorships outlined in the prospectus include data processing outfit Connectt Ltd, where Rai was a director from April 2016. It was dissolved in May after a "creditors' voluntary liquidation" in 2019 with £3.15 million of "unsecured, non-preferential claims against the company". Rai says he was "appointed a director in this company on behalf of a funding party", though he remains a director of two related dormant companies, Female Tribes and Campus Society, each with net assets of one penny.

Another ex-directorship is Oxford Cannabinoid Therapeutics, which was dissolved in August this year by "compulsory strike off". Rai, who quit the previous December, says he'd been appointed "based on a transaction that was due to take place on the Nasdaq First North Exchange. I requested to be removed forthwith". Apart from a firm related to Hellenic, his other directorship is "family property company" Kard, with net assets of £2. None of this stops Rai from hitting new highs as a plc boss. But investors are taking a lot on trust.

Banks fried

Call it the idiot defence: "I never tried to commit fraud." No, maybe it just happened by accident or didn't happen at all. Still, the FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried did preside over a $32 billion crypto soufflé that collapsed with $8 billion liabilities, owing its top 50 creditors $3.1 billion. And before that he was smart enough to buy Bahamian properties and take a $1 billion loan from his hedge fund Alameda, where FTX customer funds appear to have been routed.

Typically, that sort of caper gets you arrested. Instead SBF is giving media interviews. Amazing what can happen if you come over as a mop-topped, board-shorted goof.

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

Business

Strikes hit high street as shoppers stay away

Rail strikes, the cost of living squeeze and the World Cup all contributed to a drop in footfall on the UK's shopping streets last month (Emma Taggart writes).

Footfall declined by 13.6 per cent on an annual basis in November, and down 1.5 per cent from October, according to the British Retail Consortium and Sensormatic IQ.

Many large cities recorded a particularly significant decline, with Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester all reporting the biggest drops since January.

Bristol reported a fall of 18.1 per cent, while Birmingham recorded the largest decline of all UK cities, down 19.4 per cent from November last year. In contrast, Belfast was the only city to post an increase, with footfall up by 5.7 per cent from the same month last year.

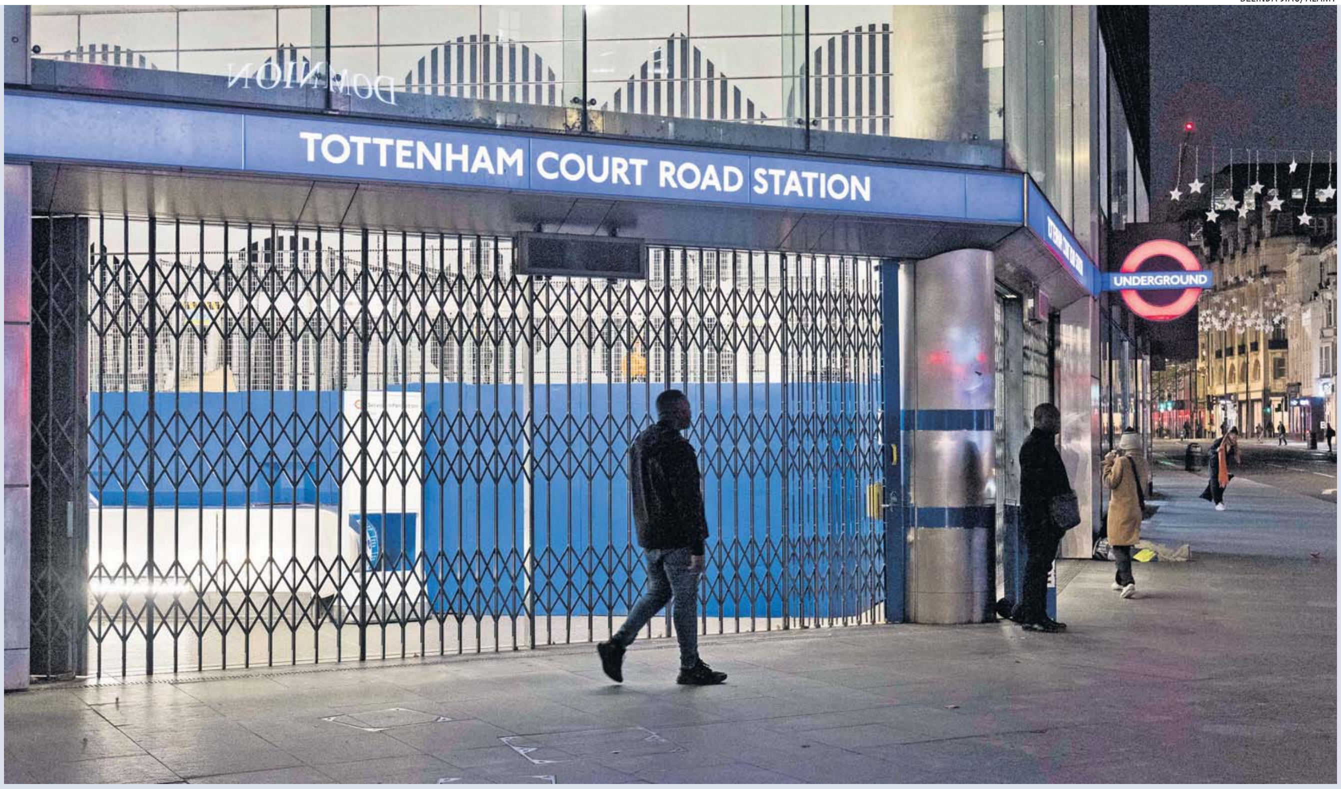
Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium, said: "Footfall took another stumble as the cost of living crisis put off some consumers from visiting the shops in November. Others opted to stay home due to the scattering of rail strikes, or chose the World Cup over shopping visits," she said. "Rising inflation and low consumer confidence continue to dampen spending expectations in the run-up to Christmas"

Despite the shopping boost that was provided to retailers by Black Friday, Dickinson said that many consumers remained at home, holding out for last-minute Christmas gift ideas.

However, worries about energy bills and inflation may be forcing many consumers to cut back on Christmas shopping for friends and family as they look for ways to save money.

Footfall declined in all of the UK's regions, with the northeast the worst affected, recording a 18.8 per cent decline. This was followed by the East Midlands, which experienced a 18.5 per cent drop.

It remains some way off pre-pandemic levels with Springboard's monthly insights showing that the gap to 2019 footfall levels widened to 11.1 per cent lower in November, compared with 9.8 per cent in October.



BELINDA JIAO/ALAMY

Walkouts by transport workers, as well as rising inflation and the World Cup, all contributed to a large decline in footfall

Sentiment over China is the worst I've seen, says Fidelity stockpicker

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Investor sentiment towards China is "dire", according to the manager of one of the most widely backed London-listed vehicles for investing in the country.

The zero-Covid policy, the residential property wobble, souring geopolitical relations and slowing economic growth were all hitting confidence, according to Dale Nicholls, who has run Fidelity China Special Situations (FCSS) investment trust since 2014.

"Without a doubt, sentiment towards the China market seems dire, in fact, probably the worst I have seen," he said. A number of mostly foreign investors had been selling down their China holdings, he added.

By contrast, Nicholls was borrowing more and raising the gearing of the trust to take advantage of low valuations and invest in what he said was "a plethora of buying ideas".

Nicholls was reporting an 8.4 per cent decline in net asset value for the six months to September, underperforming his benchmark, the MSCI China index, which was down by 5.5 per cent.

FCSS, a £1.1 billion company and member of the FTSE 250, is one of the most popular ways for investors to gain exposure to the world's second biggest economy. It was founded in 2010 and scooped start-up investment from 80,000 retail investors, attracted by the record in the UK of its initial manager, the star stockpicker Anthony Bolton.

> **8.4%**
> Decline in net asset value for the six months to September
> Source: Fidelity China Special Situations

The trust struggled at first, stabilised and then rallied, but its share price has more than halved since its peak of more than 480p in February 2021.

Its discount to net assets also widened in the period, from 7.5 per cent to 9 per cent, in spite of the company using cash to buy in its shares.

Beijing's zero-Covid policy, which has been the subject of local demonstrations in recent days, "has taken its toll on the economy as well as on market sentiment," Nicholls said.

While there had been no concrete policy shift in Beijing, he expected a modest relaxation of the policy, which can shut down entire districts and factories in response to a single infection.

"We are already seeing some nuanced relaxation and improvement in areas such as the shortening of quarantine times and the adoption of a standardised approach across the nation," Nicholls said. However, he warned that in the short term, the dampening consumer effect would continue.

The property sector weakness was also a drag on the economy, FCSS warned. Property developer failures could have knock-on effects to banks. "We are closely watching the potential systemic risks," Nicholls said. The trust had no direct exposure in this area.

Investments responsible for the underperformance in the period included two wealth management companies Lufax Holding and Noah Holdings.

FCSS was also hit by the fall in the share price of Tencent, the social media, computer games and cloud computing group, its biggest single investment at 10.7 per cent of its net assets.

Nicholls personally owns almost 97,000 FCSS shares worth about £215,000. He said that while the wider investor view on China remained bearish, the trust was borrowing more to take advantage of "a plethora of buying ideas and opportunities."

Gearing in the period was lifted from 26.1 per cent to 26.5 per cent, a relatively high level for the trust. It has a gearing limit of 30 per cent.

Analysts pointed out that the bullish view on China was in marked contrast to the positioning of a sister fund, the Fidelity Emerging Markets. That has exposure to China of just 8.9 per cent, while its benchmark has a China weighting of 26.7 per cent.

Tempus, page 54

Index shows manufacturing is deep in the doldrums

Patrick Hosking

Factories produced less, exported less, employed fewer people and saw intakes of new work shrink last month, according to the latest snapshot of activity.

In further evidence that Britain has fallen into recession, the S&P Global/CIPS purchasing managers index showed the manufacturing sector was in sharp contraction.

The overall index improved slightly to 46.5 from October's two and a half year low of 46.2. A reading below 50 constitutes a reduction in activity.

John Glen, the chief economist at the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, said: "Brexit, logistics constraints, high costs and low demand contributed to the continued decline in manufacturing output in November which also fed into deteriorating job numbers for a second month in a row."

A glimmer of light was that input price inflation fell to a three-month low, suggesting pricing pressures could be starting to ease after the decline in some energy and raw material costs.

New export business reduced at the quickest pace in two and-a-half years, as demand from several trading partners, such as China, the European Union and the United States, deteriorated. Exporters blamed "client hesitancy" and subdued global market conditions for the decrease.

Manufacturers account for about 10 per cent of total output in the UK.

Aside from during the pandemic, October and November have been the weakest two months for the index since 2009 — immediately after the global financial crisis.

Manufacturers cut jobs for a second successive month, and at the fastest pace since November 2020. Expectations for output remained positive but by the smallest margin since April 2020.

The PMI data echoes a slowdown seen in the CBI's monthly gauge of industrial orders, although that measure remains above its long-run average.

The latest official data shows factory output in September was 5.8 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Last month the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated the economy was in a recession that would last until late next year and cost 2 per cent of economic output.

Rob Dobson, at S&P Global, said: "Companies are reporting rising recession fears, weak consumer spending and subdued client confidence."

Households plan a tight Christmas

Tom Saunders

More than half of British households expect to pare back Christmas spending as the cost of living crisis puts a damper on the festive season.

Some 56 per cent of those surveyed by Mintel, a market research firm, are planning for more frugal festivities, with almost a quarter expecting to put the bill on credit or buy-now-pay-later accounts.

Overall spending in the run-up to Christmas is expected to lift by 2.1 per cent to £89.9 billion although the survey makes grim reading for traditional retailers, with almost 23 per cent planning to buy more gifts online than in 2021, despite being unhindered by last year's local lockdowns.

There will also be fewer presents under the tree, with people cutting the number on their gift list by a third with seasonal generosity tempered by soaring energy bills and inflation.

Nick Carroll, of Mintel, said: "We've long held the view that the festive retail performance is governed more by how consumers presently feel about their finances than how they view the coming year, with consumers willing to make sacrifices to have a good Christmas.

"However, the uncertainty felt by many at present, and for what the coming year may bring, means the wider economic picture will be hard to ignore this Christmas and will govern the spending decisions of most consumers."

The survey follows data from the British Retail Consortium which suggested that shop prices are now 7.4 per cent higher than last November, with food inflation at a record annual high of 12.4 per cent.

A typical household will spend £905, including about £145 on food and £590 on gifts, amounting to about 36 per cent of the average monthly household income.

Harry Wallop



It's happy hour again, but after-work drinks are not everyone's idea of fun

I have a new hero. He is called Mr T and he has just won a victory on behalf of millions of workers who believe it is perfectly acceptable, preferable even, to turn up to the office, do your work, keep your head down and then go home.

We don't know his real name for legal reasons, but we know that he is French and that in 2015 he was sacked from the Paris-based consultancy company he worked for, Cubik Partners, for "professional incompetence".

How did this ineptitude manifest itself? Being rude to clients? Wiping data files through fat-fingered clumsiness? No. He refused to adhere to the company's values: "Fun & pro, that's our motto!" This being a French company, you may think I am being a little fast and loose with the translation. To be clear, the original French is: "Fun & pro, *telle est notre devise*!" And, reading the excerpts from the court ruling, which was only made public last week, it sounds as if Cubik was fun in the same way that sticking a sharp pencil into one's own eyeball would be *tellement amusant*.

Mr T claimed that Cubik's culture was characterised by "humiliating and intrusive practices … such as mock sexual acts, the obligation to share his bed with another employee during seminars, the use of nicknames to designate people and the posting of distorted and made-up photos in offices".

He also said that there were obligatory work events where "excessive alcoholism" was "encouraged by colleagues who made very large quantities of alcohol available".

The French court found that Mr T had been unfairly dismissed.

Now, I like a drink. In the eyes of some (certainly the NHS) I probably enjoy drinking to excess. I have, however, always been wary of work drinks, not those with genuinely friendly colleagues after a long day at the coalface, but I have a suspicion of those drinks organised by a boss in the hope that it will engender some team spirit or make their underlings feel grateful.

In the Christmas party season does this sound churlish? Very possibly, but I see that, for once, my old-fogeyish ways have caught up with a Gen Z mentality, which views office parties as problematic, exclusionary and downright discriminatory.



Life and Soul

In a survey conducted by the recruitment site Totaljobs, six in ten workers said they would prefer venues that were not the pub or a bar for celebrations. "The growing numbers of Gen Z in the workplace has changed things," Stephen Warnham, of Totaljobs, said. "They are far more likely to be teetotal and the appetite for the Christmas party as it once was has diminished."

It is easy to brush off this generation as the joy stasi, a group determined to outlaw everything that we once saw as fun. One has only, however, to flick through recent employment tribunal cases to see how often excessive — out of hours — drinking has led to trouble and I am not thinking of Downing Street's wine-in-a-suitcase lockdown boozing.

There have been workers axed because they got hammered at a party, the judges having agreed with bosses that the party constituted an extension of the workplace. There have been workers who have successfully sued because not being invited to after-work drinks constituted victimisation.

Jeremy Corbyn, a hero to many tofu-munching Gen Zers, was lambasted a few years ago when he said that he took a dim view of "companies that encourage an ethic of early-evening socialisation" because it "benefits men who don't feel the need to be at home looking after their children and it discriminates against women who want to obviously look after the children they've got".

Thrice-married Mr Corbyn was probably far too busy supporting socialism in Venezuela to ever change a nappy himself but, putting aside his blatant sexism, he did have a point. After-work drinks may be appealing to those without any at-home commitments but if you have someone you need to care for should you be expected to take an hour out of your own time to have a couple of pints with the boss?

Some experts believe that after-work drinks at Christmas time can be potentially sexist because of "gender safety issues", one diversity director at a big firm told me. "Women are less keen, particularly in the winter months, to travel home late at night on their own."

Many offices are deciding that it is just easier to either ditch the alcohol altogether or not make it the focus of the Christmas party. Warnham's team at Totaljobs is off to one of those indoor "retailtainment" spaces that have taken over defunct department stores. In Canary Wharf, east London, the hottest venue for Christmas parties is no longer a wine bar but the newly opened Fairgame, where investment bankers can whack a mole and throw mini basketballs into hoops. One of the reasons indoor crazy golf has taken off in recent years is because it is considered an appropriately "inclusive" alternative to going to the pub for team bonding.

My issue with this development is that it is merely swapping one form of mandated fun for another. I like getting sloshed, I like hitting golf balls around windmills, I might even want to combine the two activities, but I do not want to do either if the person paying my wages has organised it for me in my own time.

"Quiet quitting" was included as one of the top ten words of the year by Collins Dictionary. Many believe that this phenomenon manifests itself as a surly refusal by workers to undertake anything more than their contractual obligations.

What it really means is that lots of people are secretly Mr T: we may enjoy a crazy fun time, but we'd prefer it if it wasn't foisted upon us by our employers.

Harry Wallop is a consumer journalist and broadcaster. Follow him on Twitter @hwallop

Total cuts £100m from North Sea investments

Times Business Reporter

TotalEnergies will cut investment in North Sea projects by a quarter after the government raised a windfall tax on the sector, the French group's British exploration and production arm said.

Shell and Equinor have also said that they were evaluating their investment plans after the windfall tax, known as the energy profits levy, was raised to 35 per cent from 25 per cent to help plug Britain's fiscal shortfall.

The tax, on top of other levies that the sector is subject to, brings the overall tax rate to 75 per cent, among the highest in the world. TotalEnergies said that the cut in investment for next year equates to £100 million.

"For 2023 alone our investments will be cut by 25 per cent," Jean-Luc Guiziou said in a statement, first reported by Energy Voice.

"Following another change to the fiscal environment for energy investors in the UK, we are now evaluating the impact of this change on our current and planned projects," Guiziou added.

2,300

Number of people TotalEnergies employs in the UK
Source: TotalEnergies

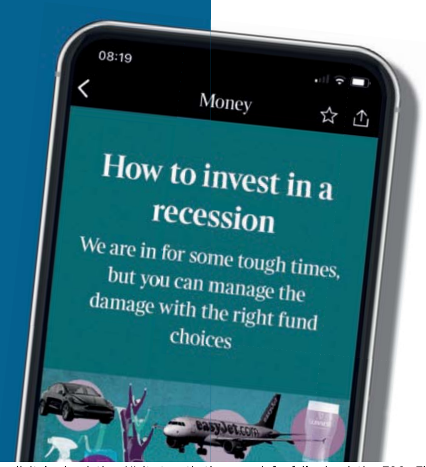
TotalEnergies, the British North Sea's second-biggest oil and gas producer according to data from Wood Mackenzie, had planned to spend £500 million in the North Sea next year. The company, which was founded in 1924, employs more than 2,300 people in Britain.

Guiziou said that in its present form, without a mechanism to reflect any falls in oil and gas prices, the windfall tax would particularly affect short-term investments such as infill wells near existing production. One project that will be dropped is an infill well on the Elgin field, a company official said.

"The energy industry operates in a cyclical market and is subject to volatile commodity prices. We believe that the government should remain open to reviewing the energy profits levy if prices reduce before 2028," Guiziou said.

Guiziou reiterated this week that a competitive and stable fiscal and regulatory regime was "vital to investment in critical energy and infrastructure projects" that will help meet the UK's energy security needs and its net zero ambitions.

Stay in the know when you're buying and selling.



T DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

Stay well informed wherever you are, whatever you're doing.

A digital subscription gives you the best of The Times and The Sunday Times for less than £1 a day including live updates, newsletters, commenting and puzzles.

Try it free for one month at thetimes.co.uk/trial

Subscribe with Google

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Offer available for new subscribers only. UK residents aged 18+ only. Pay nothing for your first month then £26 per month for the 7 day digital subscription. Visit store.thetimes.co.uk for full subscription T&Cs. This is not a time limited promotion. We reserve the right to change the subscription price with 30 days' notice.

Business

HSBC chief has 'moved on' from idea of splitting bank

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The boss of HSBC conceded that the bank gave "very serious consideration" to calls to break itself up but has moved on, doubling down on his opposition to demands from its largest shareholder.

Noel Quinn has faced the biggest challenge to his leadership of the FTSE 100 lender after Ping An, the Chinese insurer that holds a stake of more than 8 per cent, started to campaign this year for HSBC to split itself in two.

Ping An believes that separating HSBC's huge Asian business into another company that is listed in Hong Kong would unlock value for shareholders. Quinn disagrees and said in August that such a break-up would destroy value. Yet Ping An has refused to back down and last month ramped up its criticism of HSBC's strategy, telling its bosses that "the global finance model that once dominated and shaped the global financial industry in the last century is no longer competitive".

Quinn, who took charge of the bank in 2019, said yesterday that while HSBC agreed with many of the sentiments made by Ping An, the break-up idea was a "point of difference".

"In terms of the proposal of splitting the bank in two, we've given it serious consideration, very serious," he told the Financial Times's Global Banking Summit. "We have now moved on."

The clash with Ping An has thrown into sharp focus the tensions that HSBC faces because of its position as a leading trade bank straddling East and West. Although the lender is headquartered in London, it was founded in Hong Kong 157 years ago and the former British colony remains its biggest market. While it has operations in more than 60 countries, it makes most of its money in Asia.

Its reliance on the East has made the bank something of a political football as tensions between Beijing and the West have risen. Politicians in the UK and the US criticised HSBC two years ago after it endorsed the imposition by China of a draconian national security law on Hong Kong.

Ping An counts three Chinese state-owned investment firms among its biggest shareholders. This has spurred speculation that its break-up campaign is being driven by politicians in Beijing. Quinn denied this was the case in the summer, saying that HSBC did not "see this as an issue of politics".

Shares in HSBC are widely held in Hong Kong and some of these private investors have backed Ping An's proposal to spin off the lender's Asian business. Yet big shareholders have not voiced support for a separation.

● HSBC is reported to be cutting as many as 15 per cent of its 2,000 senior operations managers worldwide. The job losses will fall across several business units and geographical locations and result in the loss of at least 200 positions, mostly with the title of chief operating officer, according to Reuters.

The initiative, which is codenamed Project Banyan, follows HSBC's last major redundancy plan that began in 2020, which targeted up to 35,000 job cuts globally across all staffing levels. HSBC declined to comment.



The Poke will join "news" outlets such as the Daily Mash at Digitalbox

Digitalbox pays funny money for satirical site

Barclays fined £8.4m after shops lose out on card fees

Ben Martin

Barclays has been fined £8.4 million by the payments industry watchdog for failing to be transparent with retailers about the fees they were being charged to use its card services.

The Payments Systems Regulator (PSR) said the FTSE 100 bank had breached so-called interchange fee rules over a three-year period between the end of 2015 and 2018. "During this time Barclays processed a third of all card payment transactions in the UK, meaning thousands of retailers and transactions were affected," it said.

Barclays had fallen short of requirements to give retailers full information about the costs of card services it supplied, the regulator added.

"When paying by card, retailers have to pay fees to accept the payment and these fees can be passed on to consumers through higher prices," it said. "Barclays' failure meant retailers weren't fully aware of the fees they were paying so could not effectively compare prices of card services, shop around to find cheaper deals, or negotiate the best deal with Barclays, which could have ultimately saved them and their customers money."

The bank said it had "fully co-operated with the PSR's investigation".

The fine is another setback for Barclays and its boss Coimbatore Sundararajan Venkatakrishnan, who took charge of the bank a year ago. During his tenure, Barclays has been hit with a $361 million penalty by US regulators over a blunder at its structured products division that resulted in $17.7 billion more securities being issued by the bank than it had permission for.

The Financial Conduct Authority in October said it was planning to fine Barclays £50 million for "reckless" conduct during a fundraising it undertook with Qatari investors at the height of the 2008 financial crisis.



T BOOKS

A gift to treasure

A glossy 136-page souvenir special featuring a unique collection of writing by Times royal experts and the very best photography of the Queen from childhood. An ideal present for Christmas.

Order now at times.newsprints.co.uk/queen

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times



UKTV

In language that will be familiar to its three-million plus monthly readers, The Poke has got owned (Simon Freeman writes).

Twenty years after starting life as a fanzine at the Edinburgh Festival, the satirical website once described as a cross between The Onion and Private Eye has been bought by mobile-first media business Digitalbox. It will join a stable of Generation Z-focused brands including the student red-top The Tab, the parody news site The Daily Mash and the gossip site Entertainment Daily in what its Aim-listed owners hope will become the UK's leading destination for online humour.

The Poke, whose motto is "time well wasted", caused a stir in 2012 when a fictional "exclusive" about a BBC sign language interpreter being fired for "getting bored and making stuff up" was reported as a genuine story by French broadcasters. An auto-tuned video remix of Nick Clegg's apology for backing student tuition fees became an online phenomenon.

The Poke was sold by Speakeasy Media, a private company majority owned by James Herring, a co-founder of the London PR agency Taylor Herring, according to Companies House filings. Financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

The Poke made about £170,000 from digital advertising sales in the year to November 2021, and Digitalbox expects to increase revenue using its own ad stacking technology. It said it had grown ad revenue from The Tab by 52 per cent since its 2020 takeover.

Clampdown on insider trades at spread bet firms

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Spread betting firms are not doing enough to identify and report suspected insider dealers, the Financial Conduct Authority has said, as it launched a wider crackdown on the industry.

The City regulator said it was concerned at the level of suspicious activity by potential insider dealers who use firms offering spread bets and similar products such as contracts for difference (CFDs) to conduct their abuse.

It has written to the chief executives of CFD providers, threatening fines and bans if the failings continue and firms do not improve their systems and controls. The letters reveal continuing frustration that CFD providers are not only turning a blind eye to insider dealing but preying on more vulnerable clients to improperly encourage them to trade more.

A minority of providers caused "significant consumer harm" with ploys ranging from fake celebrity endorsements to so-called "opting up". This is when inexperienced investors were offered incentives to upgrade to "elective professional status", enabling them to take bigger and riskier bets.

The industry is dominated by large fully authorised firms such as IG Group, CMC Markets, Plus 500 and City Index, but there are also 30 others outside the UK that passport in under the temporary permissions regime.

About 80 per cent of customers lose money when buying CFDs, the FCA says, and it is now worried that desperate households could try financial bets to extract themselves from the cost of living squeeze.

While a large number of current and retired City traders like CFD trading and fully understand the risks, the industry is constantly wooing a sometimes less financially sophisticated demographic through its heavy advertising on sports shirts.

CFDs and spread bets enable insider dealers to take huge leveraged bets on the short-term direction of share prices for a very small outlay. Providers are supposed to report suspicious transactions to the FCA.

"Poor systems and controls often result in firms being used as conduits of financial crime, primarily insider dealing," the FCA said. Some firms had improved policies and refused to deal with clients, it said, but added: "We remain concerned at the level of suspicious transaction activity in the CFD sector."

In October the FCA fined the provider Sigma Broking £531,000 for failing to report or failing to report accurately 56,000 CFD transactions. It also failed to report 97 CFD transactions as suspicious. Two of Sigma's former directors, Simon Tyson and Stephen Tomlin, were banned from authorised City roles and were fined.

Listing other concerns yesterday, the FCA pointed to high-pressure sales tactics including encouraging clients to invest using credits, charging excessive fees and refusing to process requests for withdrawals. It was also concerned that complaints were met with compensation offers substantially below a client's investment loss and accompanied by gagging clauses.

Another concern was the use of affiliate marketers or introducers, where oversight was inadequate and "sometimes part of a deliberate strategy to exploit consumers". It warned against the hiring of social media influencers to target younger consumers with lower levels of financial literacy. Boards were given until the end of January to agree actions to address the FCA's concerns.

Losing streak

Percentage of retail investor accounts that lose money on spread bets and CFDs

Plus500	79%
IG Group	77%
CMC Markets	77%
City Index	75%
Etoro	67%

TIMES Travel Offers



QUOTE TIMES FOR EXCLUSIVE READER ONLY EVENTS^

Literature Festival at Sea 2023

Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word.

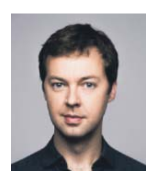
Find yourself in a literary haven on board Cunard's Literature Festival at Sea. This event, curated by the team of The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival, sees authors, poets, journalists, critics, and historians unite on this voyage.

Enjoy this seven-day programme of events which celebrate the written word. Guests include bestselling authors Lynda La Plante, Kate Mosse and Anthony Beevor; journalists Julia Wheeler, Daniel Finkelstein; literary agent Luigi Bonomi; and former Home Secretary and author, Alan Johnson.

WHAT'S INCLUDED
✓ Seven night Transatlantic Crossing aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York
✓ Economy-class flights and transfers from New York to the UK
✓ All meals and entertainment*
✓ Access to additional events when you book direct with Cunard and quote TIMES^

OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS
CUNARD
THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES TIMES RADIO CHELTENHAM Literature Festival

CONFIRMED EXPERTS
Full current list available online


Andrew Hunter Murray


Clare Chambers


Val McDermid

DEPARTURE:
NOVEMBER 19, 2023

SEVEN NIGHTS FROM
INSIDE: £1,134 PP
BALCONY: £1,634 PP
PRINCESS GRILL SUITE: £3,754 PP

CALL 0808 134 9719
QUOTE TIMES
thetimes.co.uk/litfest2023

Cunard Fares shown are based on two adults sharing the lowest grade of stateroom available within the applicable stateroom type and are subject to availability. Fares for sole occupancy and supplementary fares are available on request. Speakers and on-board activities are subject to change. Some on-board activities will incur an additional charge. All information is correct at the time of going to print. For full terms and conditions visit cunard.com. *Cover charge applies for alternative dining options. ^Book via the phone number on this advert and quote TIMES to enjoy access to additional on-board events for Times readers.





A smoke-free future is within the UK's grasp.

To get there, adults who don't quit smoking need access to—and information about—the full range of smoke-free alternatives available.

Of course, the best choice any adult smoker can make is to quit tobacco and nicotine altogether. But those who don't quit might find a smoke-free product that works for them.

If the UK embraces smoke-free innovation—and combines it with the right regulatory and policy approach—it can help accelerate an end to smoking once and for all.

SCAN HERE TO KNOW MORE

Find out more about how we are accelerating a smoke-free future at **PMI.com/LetsGoSmokeFree**

PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

The Briton steering Walmart's global empire

Judith McKenna takes stock of her time at the retail giant, but tells **Callum Jones** that the future is unpredictable

As families across the United States gathered for Thanksgiving last week, retailers were particularly grateful. After rampant inflation ballooned costs for chains and piled pressure on customers, the arrival of the crucial holiday trading season offered some welcome relief.

For Walmart, however — the country's largest employer which generates more sales than any other retailer in the world — such bumper weeks are scattered across the calendar. "There's a festival, a celebration, something happening pretty much everywhere," said Judith McKenna, the veteran British executive running Walmart's international empire.

Day of the Dead and Diwali have already been and gone for its Mexican and Indian businesses; attention has now turned to Christmas, Three Kings Day and Chinese new year. Inside her office at Walmart's headquarters, McKenna laughed. "Can you imagine looking at my daily sales? It's like, 'Who's got what now?'," she said. "We've always got something."

Walmart, founded in 1962 by Sam Walton, is based in Bentonville, Arkansas. Today it has about 10,500 stores and 2.3 million staff, with a stock market value of $414 billion. While the US remains its biggest market, its global network is vast: some 5,100 stores and about 550,000 employees across 23 other countries, including Canada, India and China.

McKenna, 56, an accountant who grew up in Middlesbrough, knows how far and wide this company is spread. A decade has passed since Asda's former chief financial and operating officer relocated to America to work for the supermarket's then owner. She has spent almost half of it as chief executive and president of its overseas arm.

It has been a turbulent time. The pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, before giving way to record inflation across much of the world. Price growth is hitting Chile the hardest in Walmart's portfolio, according to McKenna, who pointed to food inflation of almost 20 per cent. China is faring best, for now.

All its markets are still in growth, but fears of a worldwide recession loom large. What next? "I don't have a crystal ball," she said. "It's not a dodge to the question: I genuinely don't know." Across the board, from Walmart China to stablemate Flipkart in India, managers have been advised to focus on what they can control, and closely monitor what they can't.

The group's top leaders have adopted this approach themselves in recent years. Under McKenna, Walmart has significantly reshaped its international footprint, withdrawing from several markets, including Japan, Brazil and Argentina. In the UK it sold Asda to the billionaire Issa brothers and the private equity firm TDR Capital in a £6.8 billion deal.

Ultimately an era defined by expansion came to a close. "What became clear to us is that, to be really successful, you had to choose where you wanted to do business, in order to be able to focus on [those markets] and put the resources that were needed for it," she said. This was not about retreating but "reducing the size of your business to get bigger and better in the long term," according to McKenna, who acknowledged it was a "pretty tough thing to do" in the short term.

"The UK is one of the most competitive markets in the world and it is, structurally by its nature, a lower-return market because of that," she said. "When we looked at opportunities around the world, one of the things is there were greater opportunities in other places. But equally, to be fair to Asda, to keep it strong and healthy for the long term, we would have needed to not only invest, but probably to step up a level of investment."

Walmart has long sought to strengthen its sprawling business with global links. Successful initiatives in one market have been transferred to another, talented executives promoted to higher-profile roles and expertise shared. As inflation climbed this year, for example, Guilherme Loureiro, who heads its Mexican and central American businesses, and used to lead its Brazilian business, gave a series of seminars. "There is nothing about inflation that Guilherme doesn't know."

And until 2020 Asda was no exception. "There's lots and lots of things that we brought from the UK," McKenna recalled, from the use of iPads in-store to the training of employees in academies.

But should it ever return to Britain, McKenna does not expect Walmart to do so in the same form. "I can't see us doing bricks and mortar around the world in future," she said, describing its current portfolio as a "well-shaped" collection of markets. But "some time way down the line," the group could enter — or re-enter — countries as an online operator.

She remains bullish on in-store shopping, though, and insists an omnichannel strategy that provides both digital and physical retail is best. "I've gone through multiple phases in my career of people talking about stores being a thing of the past," she said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Shares in Walmart came under pressure this summer after it warned that higher food and fuel prices were prompting households to cut back on discretionary spending, but have since recovered; its stock is up 5 per cent on the year. Amazon, by contrast, is down 45 per cent.

McKenna, who initially moved to the US for two years, has stayed for ten and visited every state. "My career planning isn't exactly top notch," she said. Having been made redundant by Tetley Pub Company, she joined Asda in 1996 after realising the supermarket's Leeds office was an "easy drive" from her house. She planned to work there for about a year. Seventeen years later she left for Walmart.

Raised by two teachers, McKenna found relocation to the US to be something of an education in the early days. Language proved an unexpected barrier. She still remembers the reaction after informing colleagues in a meeting that she did not intend to teach their grandmother to suck eggs.

Now settled, she lightly batted away a question about whether she could be tempted to return to Britain. "You've heard how good I am at career planning and life planning," she said, although it is a subject "frequently" raised by her family. Her son is 21 and her daughter, who works at Walmart, is 27.

JEROD HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES



Judith McKenna only intended to work for Asda in Leeds for about a year, but then came Walmart and a move to the US

Asda sale tough 'but right'

Walmart's decision to "slim down" its international footprint led Judith McKenna, head of its operations beyond the United States, to chop several arms off the grocery giant. One divestment was particularly difficult.

McKenna, a former Asda executive, played a key role in removing the British supermarket from Walmart's empire after more than two decades. She found the experience "really hard".

"I grew up there," she told The Times. "I learnt everything I know about retail there, taught by some incredible people. But it was the right thing to do for that business, and for the market, actually, I believe, as well."

Walmart, which agreed to sell Asda to the billionaire Issa brothers and the private equity firm TDR Capital two years ago, retained a minority stake and a seat on the grocer's board. But when the £6.8 billion takeover was completed in February last year, it marked the end of an era.

Personal experience aside, McKenna noted that the UK had been Walmart's largest market by profit and sales outside the United States. "That's challenging to make the decision, even if you know it's the right business strategy," she said. "Because you wear your business hat, and you say, 'that's it'."

Asda "learnt so much from Walmart," McKenna added. "Walmart then learnt from Asda, and Walmart started to give back to Asda, and this cycle, you know, Asda moving on to the next chapter of its history. It's one of the great things about being in business as you see these ebbs and flows."

Next believes Joules can still sparkle as it saves collapsed retailer

Helen Cahill

Joules has been bought out of administration by Next and the fashion retailer's founder Tom Joule in a deal that will safeguard 1,450 jobs.

Next has agreed to buy about 100 Joules shops for £34 million after a sales process led by the company's administrators Interpath Advisory.

Next will own a 74 per cent stake in the future business and Joule will own the remaining 26 per cent. Next has also acquired the Joules head office in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, but the chain's administrators will have to shut 19 shops, leading to the loss of 133 jobs.

Joules was set up by Joule, 54, in 1989 on a country show stall selling clothing. He went on to build the chain into a national brand with 130 shops.

He said recently that the business had become "too complex" to survive as costs rose. He tried to secure equity investment and explored cutting its rental bill using a company voluntary arrangement. Joules collapsed as it was unable to secure the bridging finance required to repay a £5 million Barclays loan due at the end of last month. The rescue comes after Next bought Made.com's brand and website out of administration for £3.4 million.

£34m

Cost of buying 100 Joules stores
Source: Next

Foschini Group, the South African owner of Phase Eight, also expressed an interest in buying Joules.

Lord Wolfson of Aspley Guise, Next's chief executive, said Joules's products would be put on the Total Platform, which sells goods from other brands. He said: "We are excited to see what can be achieved through the combination of Joules's exceptional product, marketing and brand-building skills with Next's Total Platform infrastructure."

Will Wright, head of restructuring at Interpath Advisory, said: "Following a highly competitive process, we are pleased to have concluded this transaction, which secures the future of this great British brand, as well as safeguarding a significant number of jobs.

"To have achieved this in such a short timetable is testament to the support we've received from employees, suppliers and other key stakeholders."

Business Unit Trusts

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	...
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	157.03	...	+1.13	2.63
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	324.75	...	+1.99	4.60
UK Gwth A ‡@	8075.88	...	+54.49	2.30
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	0.07

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2164.21	...	-0.11	3.01
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	371.14	...	-1.07	2.11
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	44.85	...	-0.46	1.10
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	342.02	...	-0.61	1.79
Global Income R Acc ‡@	159.57	...	+0.06	4.16
Global Income R Inc ‡@	101.55	...	+0.04	4.31
Global Select R Acc ‡@	152.16	...	+1.89	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	62.04	...	+0.35	4.38
Income R Acc ‡@	506.08	...	+0.62	3.91
Income R Inc ‡@	221.86	...	+0.27	4.03
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	65.56	...	-0.10	4.77
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡	84.12	...	+0.09	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	95.22	...	+0.36	2.99
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	50.49	...	+0.19	3.05
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	95.05	...	+0.36	3.16
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	50.25	...	+0.02	3.21
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	662.75	...	+3.30	1.21
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1849.40	...	+17.96	0.88
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	668.88	...	+2.73	1.07

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	...
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3016.00	...	+50.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	...
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	241.00	...	+1.30	4.47
UK Growth Inc ‡@	220.60	...	+2.60	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1948.00	...	+15.00	1.04
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	267.30	...	+3.20	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	...
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	198.70	...	+1.10	1.20
Sus Leaders ‡@	761.70	...	+7.30	1.08
UK Growth ‡@	619.70	...	+2.20	2.01
UK Income ‡@	211.20	...	+0.20	4.80

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3616.58	...	+36.15	0.87

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	86.75	...	+0.20	3.81
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	302.60	...	+0.20	1.77
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	316.90	...	+4.60	0.08
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	120.00	...	...	4.93
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	217.40	...	+2.10	0.97
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	273.00	...	+3.30	0.88

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	50.47	...	-0.11	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1152.00	...	+14.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.35	...	+0.12	1.85
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	422.60	...	+1.40	3.02
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	311.30	...	+4.20	...
High Inc Trst @	11.17	11.78	-0.03	5.73
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.70	...	+0.07	3.11
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	844.90	...	+13.30	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	484.50	...	+0.20	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	195.70	...	+0.60	1.80
UK Equity ‡@	3428.00	...	+41.00	1.26
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1027.00	...	+4.00	0.19

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2388.00	...	+12.00	...
American ‡@	5033.00	...	+113.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	552.70	...	+3.30	...
European ‡@	3279.00	...	+12.00	0.32
Extra Income ‡@	22.73	...	-0.04	5.10
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5477.00	...	+72.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2910.00	...	+56.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	535.90	...	+1.90	0.51
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	44.51	...	+0.06	3.64
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	29.59	...	-0.06	4.36
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	127.32	...	+0.40	2.89
Special Sits ‡@	4441.00	...	+15.00	1.26
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	32.68	...	+0.34	3.02
Ethical ‡@	111.20	...	+1.10	0.01
European ‡@	105.70	...	+0.30	1.90
Far Eastern ‡	113.60	...	+0.80	1.79
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	136.20	...	+1.20	0.26
Intl Gwth ‡	125.00	...	+1.50	1.11
Japanese ‡	66.99	...	+0.42	1.41
North Amer ‡	149.10	...	+2.50	0.28
Smaller Cos ‡	107.80	...	+0.60	0.80
Special Sits ‡@	47.33	...	+0.72	1.49
UK Equity Inc ‡@	89.65	...	+0.81	4.00
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	69.19	...	+0.53	2.68
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	77.74	...	+0.23	2.54
UK Growth ‡@	80.60	...	+0.26	3.19

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	922.35	...	+15.46	1.01
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	742.90	...	+12.55	1.01
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1125.57	...	+4.34	2.34
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	719.14	...	+2.77	2.42
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	273.24	...	+0.80	3.14
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	124.13	...	+0.37	3.22
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	286.26	...	+0.71	2.28
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	176.88	...	+0.43	2.27
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	696.56	...	+2.21	3.16
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	352.15	...	+1.11	3.24
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	138.84	...	+0.32	1.97
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	108.21	...	+0.25	2.30
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	503.93	...	+1.57	2.59
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	317.14	...	+0.99	2.66

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	241.39	...	+0.66	0.59
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	264.43	...	+0.65	4.79
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	103.41	...	+0.25	5.15
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	1.19
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	1.58
Income Acc ‡@	693.40	...	+1.99	4.28
Income Inc ‡@	289.98	...	+0.83	4.42
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	127.71	...	+0.33	3.95
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	141.76	...	+0.43	4.15
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	63.78	...	+0.19	4.29
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	141.76	...	+0.43	4.15
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	63.78	...	+0.19	4.29

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	922.35	...	+15.46	1.01
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	742.90	...	+12.55	1.01
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	442.11	...	+2.90	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	196.47	...	+0.45	1.24
High Income Inc ‡@	315.78	...	+1.94	3.22
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	406.78	...	+2.65	1.68
Income Inc ‡@	1237.96	...	+8.62	3.48
Money Acc ‡@	91.60	...	+0.03	0.47
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	91.73	...	-0.41	4.95
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	863.70	...	+3.63	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1359.47	...	+9.49	0.34
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	642.88	...	+15.30	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	729.92	...	+5.18	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	374.45	...	+1.69	1.98
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	236.49	...	+1.07	2.00
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	129.74	...	+1.36	0.61
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	137.38	...	+1.44	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	315.45	...	+0.96	2.55
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.69	...	-0.01	4.03
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	111.16	...	+0.03	4.34
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.72	...	-1.01	6.29
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	150.02	...	-0.01	0.93
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	176.57	...	-1.43	4.52
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	69.67	...	-1.72	4.78
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	236.63	...	+4.06	0.43
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	305.79	...	+5.30	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1179.26	...	+14.09	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	182.20	...	+3.25	0.53
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	311.09	...	+2.10	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	240.63	...	+1.63	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	283.34	...	+2.55	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.03	...	+0.48	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2581.39	...	+12.50	2.08
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4694.73	...	+18.01	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4210.88	...	+16.15	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1266.04	...	+7.05	1.74
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	453.84	...	+2.53	1.78

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	115.50	...	+0.20	1.75
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	81.05	...	-0.10	5.79
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	281.80	...	+1.30	2.87
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	139.80	...	+0.60	2.93
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1168.00	...	+8.00	...
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	195.70	...	+0.30	...
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	283.30	...	+1.30	1.25
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2135.00	...	+5.00	1.25
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.34	...	+0.13	5.11
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4389.00	...	+73.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	66.06	...	...	3.32
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	2759.00	...	+89.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	112.87	...	+0.35	2.91
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	161.20	...	+0.20	0.52
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	253.30	...	-0.30	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	145.80	...	+0.30	1.86
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	186.20	...	+0.40	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	205.40	...	+0.30	1.45
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	56.38	...	+0.10	1.46
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	104.90	...	+0.50	3.37
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	164.90	...	-0.10	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	137.20	...	+1.60	1.16
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1661.00	...	+55.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	1.03
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	2.07
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	2.03
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	...
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	32.55	...	-0.01	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	95.29	...	+0.30	2.09
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	431.38	...	+5.39	...
European ‡@	2741.39	...	+26.74	...
Financial Opps ‡@	709.39	...	+0.21	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	506.50	...	-0.15	4.07
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	226.62	...	-1.22	2.09
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡	525.95	...	+1.37	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	336.72	...	-0.10	2.65
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡	371.37	...	+1.26	...
UK Growth ‡@	250.49	...	+2.48	0.69
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	201.12	...	+0.21	2.02

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	497.10	...	+1.30	2.32
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	325.70	...	+0.90	2.37
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	131.00	...	+0.30	1.92
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	61.92	...	+0.14	1.94
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	...
Glob Health Acc ‡@	111.80	...	+0.20	0.66
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	82.00	...	-0.07	0.09
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	120.50	...	+0.50	5.37
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	68.00	...	+0.41	1.79
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	202.20	...	+0.90	3.00
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	341.40	...	+1.10	3.09
UK Index Dist ‡@	164.50	...	+0.60	3.17
US Ind Acc ‡@	794.90	...	-2.30	0.71
Worldwide Acc ‡@	333.20	...	+1.20	0.74

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1476.84	...	+0.77	5.62

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	0.69

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	696.90	...	-5.98	5.04
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	79.67	...	-0.53	1.42
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.23	...	+0.04	5.80
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	120.72	...	+0.28	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	75.12	...	-1.14	3.60
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.70	...	-0.15	1.59
UK Select A Inc ‡	2764.46	...	+2.04	2.31

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	34.02	...	+0.09	3.23
Dividend Inc ‡	54.65	...	+0.04	5.58
Recovery A Inc ‡	108.14	...	-0.28	3.01
Sml Cos Inc ‡	348.69	...	+2.13	2.07

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	136.10	...	+0.30	2.64

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

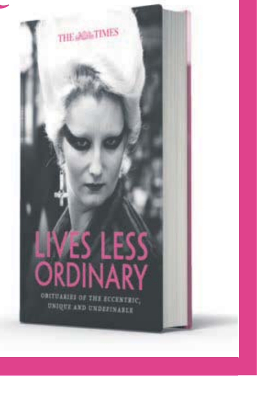
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	86.58	86.58	-0.05	4.63
High Income Acc	239.80	239.80	-0.10	4.52
UK 100 Comp Acc @	449.20	449.20	+3.60	3.29
UK 100 Cos @	222.60	222.60	+1.80	3.38
UK Select Pflo @	329.50	329.50	-1.40	3.36
UK Selection Port Acc @	681.90	681.90	+8.00	1.46
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	932.50	932.50	+0.50	1.06
Wwide Mgd @	548.50	548.50	+0.30	1.07

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Obituaries of the eccentric, unique and undefinable

40% off

A rich selection of the most fascinating characters who lived in the twentieth and early twenty-first century.



Christmas offer
~~RRP £14.99~~ **£8.99**
Use code TIMESXMAS40 at timesbooks.co.uk
Offer valid until 11th December 2022

timesbooks.co.uk

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	769.14	...	+16.08	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	765.54	...	+16.00	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	922.64	...	+3.12	5.70
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	863.09	...	+2.93	5.90
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	921.56	...	+3.11	5.72
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	861.92	...	+2.91	5.92
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	933.06	...	+4.73	1.27
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	919.21	...	+4.66	1.28
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	931.96	...	+4.72	1.20
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	919.01	...	+4.66	1.21
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1310.27	...	+23.53	4.27
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1796.13	...	+32.25	4.23
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1403.41	...	+25.20	4.35
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13495.12	...	+275.28	0.95
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1544.07	...	+46.28	1.04
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3708.27	...	+75.64	0.96
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1478.93	...	+44.34	1.05
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	513.76	...	+20.19	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	513.75	...	+20.18	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	511.73	...	+20.10	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	511.73	...	+20.11	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1136.07	...	+36.41	0.99
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1231.80	...	+27.72	0.92
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1246.94	...	+28.05	0.72
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1135.64	...	+36.37	0.78
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1253.14	...	+28.20	0.91
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	119.20	...	+0.26	3.07
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	94.67	...	-0.07	3.12
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2535.84	...	+5.44	3.39
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1345.20	...	+2.88	3.47
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	917.04	...	+3.06	2.22
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	886.47	...	+2.95	2.25
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	913.42	...	+3.04	2.01
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	886.14	...	+2.95	2.04
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1392.11	...	+58.41	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	778.41	...	+41.14	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1482.09	...	+62.16	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	816.11	...	+43.08	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	230.00	...	+0.30	1.20
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	197.20	...	-0.30	5.46
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	258.00	258.00	+1.00	3.19
UK Growth Acc ‡@	444.90	...	+0.80	3.14
UK Growth Inc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.40	3.22

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	...
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	...
Mutual Far Eastern	958.03	1011.11	+5.15	0.90
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1401.14	1478.78	+2.38	2.83
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	550.07	580.55	+0.89	3.18

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3291.00	...	+12.00	0.53

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	378.60	...	+5.20	3.39
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	189.90	...	+2.60	3.48

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	281.70	...	-0.50	2.14
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	104.90	...	-0.40	2.16
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	377.60	...	+2.80	1.43
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	226.90	...	+0.70	5.27
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	68.05	...	-0.06	5.42
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	373.70	...	+1.80	4.20
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	116.60	...	-0.40	4.30
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	187.40	...	+0.80	3.18
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	82.96	...	+0.13	3.24
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	191.10	...	+1.10	3.53
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2165.00	...	+7.00	2.60

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	417.90	...	+5.70	3.50
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	188.70	...	+2.50	3.59

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	127.10	...	+0.70	4.15
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.88	...	+0.03	1.24
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.99	...	-0.16	1.25
AAA Income Acc ‡@	96.69	...	+0.03	1.67
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	215.10	...	+4.30	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	154.70	...	+0.30	3.09
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	51.82	...	-0.33	3.14
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	243.90	...	+2.30	0.27
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	148.90	...	+0.80	0.97
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	196.70	...	+1.10	0.94
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	156.20	...	+3.30	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	140.50	...	+0.40	4.39
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	43.79	...	-0.42	4.49
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	367.40	...	+3.60	0.41
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	2.21
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	2.21
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	364.40	...	+2.40	1.88
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	224.70	...	+1.50	3.11
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	272.40	...	+1.00	4.21
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	74.94	...	+0.27	4.36
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	196.00	...	+2.60	1.43
UK Opps Acc ‡@	239.00	...	+2.20	0.62
UK Opps Inc ‡@	215.80	...	+1.90	0.62
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	808.30	...	+6.80	...

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	131.95	...	-0.04	0.77
Balanced A Inc ‡@	118.29	...	-0.03	0.77
Cautious A Acc ‡@	109.49	...	+0.08	1.28
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.27	...	+0.07	1.29
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	322.60	...	-0.28	0.49
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	291.41	...	-0.25	0.48
Growth A Acc ‡@	331.86	...	-0.05	0.68
Income A Acc ‡@	242.19	...	+0.11	1.26
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	120.41	...	+0.36	1.56

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.35	...	+0.09	4.17
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	78.63	...	+0.28	3.36
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	54.16	...	+0.13	2.12
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	54.05	...	+0.13	1.75
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	46.73	...	+0.04	1.30
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.94	...	+0.11	3.13
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	96.67	...	+0.43	3.46
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	90.14	...	+0.52	2.70
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	177.22	...	+0.25	1.82
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	67.97	...	+0.16	4.04
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	129.34	...	+1.02	1.49
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	342.68	...	+2.96	...

For Resolution see Ignis
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	897.50	897.50	+14.10	0.35
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
125.79	119.17	Tr IL 1⅞% 22	123.94	– .29	1.56	–1.06
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	378.30	+ .70	1.43	–0.81
111.98	100.58	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	104.22	+ .15	...	–3.02
120.56	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	104.10	+ .39	...	–1.09
135.63	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	110.53	+ .55	1.24	–0.82
130.64	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	105.03	+ .53	...	–0.74
132.52	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	104.97	+ .56	...	–0.65
141.65	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	107.39	+ .75	...	–0.70
402.06	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	348.51	+2.10	1.85	–0.32
161.90	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	118.96	+ .89	1.05	–0.59
160.29	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	113.56	+ .93	...	–0.42
324.74	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	255.67	+1.95	0.95	–0.18
161.43	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	105.68	+ .87	...	–0.27
186.89	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	120.38	+ .96	0.98	–0.21
169.23	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	103.48	+ .81	...	–0.09
186.19	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	111.70	+ .87	...	–0.05
180.53	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	102.88	+ .89	...	–0.03
199.86	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	112.88	+ .97	0.55	–0.02
188.86	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	101.35	+ .89	...	0.06
196.96	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	100.49	+ .80	...	0.10
229.64	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	115.26	+ .91	0.66	0.13
209.00	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	99.73	+ .81	...	0.14
232.71	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	110.40	+ .82	...	0.11
231.36	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	104.96	+ .82	...	0.08
306.14	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	139.08	+1.09	0.99	0.05
248.27	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	103.39	+1.12	...	0.02
256.47	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	103.08	+1.29	...	0.04
297.03	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	114.64	+1.55	...	...
309.47	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	107.94	+1.68	...	–0.06
335.00	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	109.60	+1.70	...	–0.08
395.45	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	120.00	+2.00	...	–0.25

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
145.94	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	109.09	+ .51	3.90	3.39
112.70	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	80.30	+ .42	...	3.47
162.05	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	115.41	+ .52	4.12	3.49
103.53	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	70.97	+ .34	...	3.49
155.95	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	109.13	+ .46	3.89	3.52
159.16	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	109.51	+ .34	...	3.53
106.42	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	69.47	+ .26	...	3.47
147.71	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	95.56	+ .28	...	3.55
169.96	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	114.17	+ .34	3.94	3.51
154.93	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	99.46	+ .28	...	3.54
175.82	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	111.82	+ .31	3.80	3.52
99.79	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	58.70	+ .21	...	3.49
114.76	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	67.28	+ .20	...	3.49
122.26	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	70.93	+ .22	...	3.45
185.65	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	113.25	+ .32	3.75	3.49
95.59	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	50.51	+ .17	...	3.38
220.50	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	100.64	+ .78	...	0.10
111.21	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	60.66	+ .18	...	3.41
180.27	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	106.00	+ .28	...	3.43
120.44	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	64.25	+ .22	...	3.38
124.61	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	66.54	+ .25	...	3.34
205.69	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	117.60	+ .41	3.61	3.36
132.79	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	69.56	+ .55	...	3.21
213.01	87.32	Tr 4% 60	116.89	+ .78	...	3.22
96.16	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	42.88	+ .54	...	3.00
173.16	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	86.20	+ .82	...	3.08
219.03	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	109.74	+1.06	...	3.10
149.85	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	66.17	+ .87	...	2.93

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
100.82	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	98.52	+ .03	...	3.11
103.36	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.14	+ .03	...	3.41
99.44	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	96.40	+ .04	...	3.31
101.61	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.99	+ .04	...	3.24
106.44	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	98.99	+ .05	...	3.34
114.71	100.77	Tr 5% 25	103.77	+ .07	4.82	3.25
100.93	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.92	+ .09	...	3.16
105.86	93.15	Tr 2% 25	96.89	+ .02	...	3.18
98.77	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	91.21	+ .17	...	3.06
104.87	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	94.38	+ .19	...	3.15
104.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	91.65	+ .25	...	3.20
121.98	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	104.50	+ .28	4.07	3.27
97.74	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	85.47	+ .26	...	3.20
107.51	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	91.86	+ .30	...	3.15
137.51	107.13	Tr 6% 28	114.64	+ .33	5.23	3.30
99.47	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	84.81	+ .27	...	3.24
102.36	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	86.10	+ .32	...	3.14
97.81	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	80.85	+ .36	...	3.13
136.04	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	111.76	+ .42	4.25	3.08
95.84	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	78.16	+ .35	...	3.15
102.46	73.06	Tr 1% 32	82.72	+ .38	...	3.19
135.62	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	109.34	+ .45	3.89	3.11
101.40	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	78.57	+ .42	...	3.27
144.81	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	111.97	+ .54	4.02	3.27
96.74	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	71.94	+ .44	...	3.36

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
99.93	98.87	Tr 0⅛% 23	99.56	+ .01	...	2.81
99.37	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.26	– .02	...	3.51
99.30	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	89.79	+ .21	...	3.19

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Toyota to build green-energy trucks in UK

Robert Lea Industrial Editor



TOYOTA

The Hilux, powered by hydrogen fuel cells, will be built in Derbyshire which could become Toyota's European centre

The UK's first mainstream commercial vehicle to be powered by hydrogen fuel cells will be built at the Toyota plant in Derbyshire, holding out the prospect that the Japanese group will choose Britain as its European manufacturing centre for the next-generation zero-emission technology.

Toyota will announce today that it has chosen Burnaston to produce six prototype hydrogen versions of its popular Hilux pick-up trucks.

The £11 million project, half-funded by the taxpayer, will lead to an initially low production run. If that proves successful, Burnaston, which builds 125,000 Corolla hybrid passenger cars a year, could be chosen as Toyota Motor Europe's home plant for hydrogen production of the Hilux and others like the Land Cruiser offroad vehicle and Toyota vans. Burnaston's sister engine plant on Deeside could become a fuel cell production facility.

"We want to prove out the clear opportunity for fuel cell electric vehicles," said Matt Harrison, chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe and one of the most senior Britons in the global automotive industry.

"We will initially be building five or six prototype vehicles that we can deploy with customers, key companies that have already expressed a clear appetite to trial them, to prove out their durability and accessibility.

"We see a real opportunity for hydrogen fuel cells to be a force and we are doing this with a view to taking a more significant step forward.

"Post-prototype we would look at small-scale production in the UK though we cannot put an accurate volume on that at this point."

He indicated that Deeside could be an option to become a fuel cell production plant and that it could supply other manufacturers. Toyota has development partnerships with Stellantis, the Peugeot, Citroën and Vauxhall group which is converting its factory at Ellesmere Port, nine miles up the road, into a plant building zero-emission vans. "There are opportunities to collaborate and create scale," Harrison said.

He said that there was a lot of support for hydrogen in Britain and an acceptance that it had "a very important role to play as part of the energy mix".

The only hindrance to the widescale deployment of hydrogen vehicles was the lack of a refuelling infrastructure, he added. Hydrogen is regarded as a better option than battery electric for commercial and heavy-goods vehicles and so more likely to be operated by corporate fleets.

Wrightbus, the Northern Ireland busmaker, is so certain of an acceleration in the acceptance of hydrogen, that it has committed itself to building up to 500 fuel cell buses in the next two years.

Toyota will develop the hydrogen Hilux in league with Ricardo, the listed, south coast specialist automotive engineering consultancy.

The Toyota programme is among £36 million of taxpayer-support for new clean transport projects announced by the business department today. They include an Essex-built New Holland tractor powered by farmyard waste and a heavy goods vehicle hydrogen powertrain developed by HVS, a small Glasgow firm.

Hydrogen power boss delays update

Helen Cahill

The hydrogen power company ITM Power has delayed its trading update as its new chief executive assesses how to reset the business.

ITM said it had chosen to push back an update scheduled for December 8 to give Dennis Schulz a chance to examine the operation after two profit warnings.

The company said Schulz would need "sufficient time to properly assess the company's operations and identify his near-term priorities", adding that it expected to make an update when it publishes half-year results next month.

ITM specialises in making electrolysers used in manufacturing "green" hydrogen from renewable energy sources, seen as crucial to the transition to net zero. It has a factory in Sheffield which produces units for producing hydrogen and oxygen gas from water.

ITM sounded its second profit warning in four months in October when it admitted manufacturing issues had led to production delays of its new electrolysis technology. The shares fell by a fifth as it revealed full-year revenues would come in at the bottom of its guided range of between £23-28 million.

Nick Walker, an analyst at Peel Hunt, said: "We are excited to learn the strategy of the new chief executive to drive the company forward, establish more automated manufacturing methods [and] build the order book."



THE SUNDAY TIMES
Wine Club

STOCK UP NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Save over £30 on a case of Christmas Classics

Celebrate Christmas with this case of classic wines, opening in sparkling style with **Casa Cantalini Prosecco**, an orchard-fruited Italian fizz that's perfect for raising a toast. Next up, a multi-award-winning, velvety Bordeaux red, **Château Les Moutins**, from the glorious 2019 vintage. Then there's **The Hour-Teller**, a delightfully refreshing New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc packed with lemony-gooseberry zing – a real crowd-pleaser.

Order today for just £53.94, that's £8.99 a bottle – plus FREE delivery to your door (usually £7.99).

Also available in all-reds and all-whites for the same great price.

SCAN HERE

ORDER TODAY:
sundaytimeswineclub.co.uk/christmassix

18+ New customers only. Offer ends 31/01/2023. Delivery to UK only (excluding CI and BFPO). Free standard delivery, usually £7.99. To ensure your order is received before Christmas, please check our latest delivery dates at sundaytimeswineclub.co.uk/xmasdelivery. Savings quoted on individual bottle price. Order acceptance and the contract between us is formed on despatch of products. See sundaytimeswineclub.co.uk/terms for full terms and conditions, and our privacy policy. The Sunday Times Wine Club is operated by Direct Wines Ltd. Registered in England and Wales (No 1095091). One Waterside Drive, Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SW. Unless otherwise stated, all wines contain sulphites.

bedrinkaware.co.uk

Emma Powell **Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Expansion has its costs for investors

AJ BELL

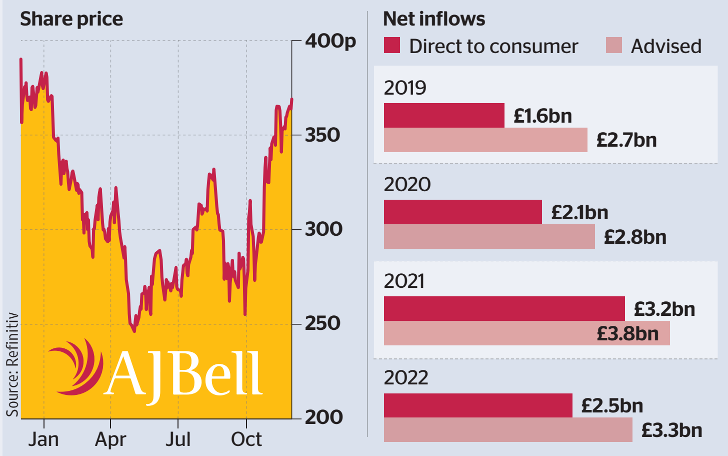
Dividend yield	Full-year
2%	revenue £164m

Spending more to capture a bigger market share can shake market confidence. AJ Bell has given investors reason to watch the cost line more carefully.

Revenue and earnings came in ahead of market expectations over the 12 months to the end of September. Higher interest rates were behind the beat, pushing up the margin the investment platform provider made on the cash clients hold in their accounts. Better still, guidance for the revenue margin on direct-to-consumer (DTC) assets this financial year has been raised to around 45 basis points, much higher than the 36 basis points that had previously been guided towards. That will be accompanied by a better margin on advised funds, of 21 basis points, up from 19 basis points previously expected.

A jump in costs takes the shine off the boost to revenue from higher rates. Distribution, technology and staff costs were 17 per cent higher last year. The bulk of the increase came from wage inflation and costs associated with the launch of two new products: Dodl, aimed at those new to investing, and Touch, designed for financial advisers managing lower-value client portfolios. There has also been a "step-change" in pushing the brand, something the investment platform has "done at the right sort of scale in years gone by". Michael Summersgill, the new chief executive, said.

Ding dong



ADVICE Hold
WHY Higher spending could limit profit growth in the near term

More interesting is guidance for the current financial year, when costs will rise by another 21 per cent, above the 15 per cent growth expected by analysts. Some of that represents inflation, but even without that cost pressure expenditure guidance would be around the mid-single digits. Analysts at Shore Capital reckon the increase in cost guidance limits the upgrade to earnings forecasts for this year to the mid-to-high single digits.

The boost to revenue that the investment platform provider expects to derive from higher rates, together with the operational gearing benefits that are intrinsic to platform providers like AJ Bell, means the pre-tax margin this year is still expected to be two percentage points higher than last year's 35.6 per cent.

The question is what happens to the profit margin during the next financial year, which runs to September 2024. The "vast majority" of the benefit from any future rate rises will be passed on to customers. Without that cushion, there is the risk that if spending on promoting the brand, hiring and technology remains elevated, then it could eat into profits.

Margins will naturally be at the mercy of to what extent AJ Bell can retain assets on its platform. Assets under administration closed 2 per cent down at the end of September, at £64.1 billion, but that was a result of market oscillations rather than investors pulling cash. Net inflows were £5.8 billion, down on the prior year when locked-down consumers were flush with cash, but still above pre-pandemic levels. But that doesn't mean investors aren't feeling the pinch. The annual cash contribution by existing customers to the DTC platform reduced from to £10,000, from £13,000, last year.

Investors also have to question how much of that expected future growth in clients and assets is already baked into the share price. Smaller scale and superior organic growth expectations mean AJ Bell trades at a premium to the behemoth, Hargreaves Lansdown. The shares have derated as markets and investor confidence have weakened, but still trade at almost 26 times forward earnings, compared with a multiple of 15 for Hargreaves.

Volatile markets put more emphasis on the trajectory of spending by AJ Bell. The severe markdown suffered by Hargreaves offers a lesson in surprise splurging.

FIDELITY CHINA SPECIAL SITS

Market cap	Discount to net
£1.08bn	asset value 11%

Fidelity China Special Situations is hardly giving prospective investors the hard sell. Sentiment towards Chinese stocks is "dire" and "probably the worst", Dale Nicholls, the trust's manager, has seen.

Chinese stocks have been caught in a perfect storm. The zero-Covid policies that have resulted in strict lockdowns and choked economic growth; a regulatory crackdown has weakened the appeal of the technology companies that dominate Chinese indices; and a downturn gripping the property market.

The result? The net asset value declined by 8.4 per cent over the six months to the end of September, worse than the 5.5 per cent fall recorded by the MSCI China Index, the trust's benchmark. Like its peers, Fidelity has endured a heavy fall in its share price since the start of last year, one that left its shares at an 11 per cent discount to net asset value. That is broadly in line with the level just prior to the pandemic.

The trust invests in stocks listed in China and in Chinese companies trading on exchanges elsewhere. What marks out Fidelity from its three UK-listed peers is its focus on small and mid-cap companies. The idea is that because such companies are less well covered by market analysts and are on the radar of fewer investors, there is more potential for those stocks to be mispriced by the market.

While the trust is underweight giants such as Tencent Holdings and Alibaba compared with the benchmark, those companies are its largest holdings at a combined 17.4 per cent of assets. Nicholls thinks the tech reforms have peaked, with regulation around data protection and sharing and anti-monopoly measures already laid out. Clarity could help engineer a re-rating in those tech and media stocks.

Stock selection is centred around a refocusing of the Chinese economy towards domestic consumption, with exposure to consumer names like the retailer Miniso, increasing earlier this year. Inflation and weaker discretionary spending could cause that sector to suffer, however. Given macroeconomic and regulatory risks pervading firms operating in China, the discount embedded in the share price is not that appealing.

ADVICE Hold
WHY Given the risks, the discount to NAV is off-putting

NEWS IN BRIEF

Morrisons downgraded

A leading credit rating agency has downgraded Morrisons amid a weakening market share and following the leveraged buyout of the supermarket group. Fitch said it reflected the chain's higher-than-expected leverage, weaker profits and free cash-flow generation and higher interest costs. It was taken private last year in a £7billion, 287p-a-share deal with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, the US private equity firm, ending 54 years as a public company. Fitch downgraded Morrison to B+ from BB- and said that its outlook was stable.

Blackstone fund block

Private equity group Blackstone has limited withdrawals from its $125 billion US real estate fund after redemption requests surged. It approved only 43 per cent of requests for its Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust fund in November, with 70 per cent of requests coming from Asia, the Financial Times said. The surge comes as Blackstone announced the sale of its 50 per cent interest in the MGM Grand Las Vegas and Mandalay Bay Resort casinos in Las Vegas for $1.27 billion.

Broadband fees inquiry

Ofcom has launched an industry-wide investigation into whether phone and broadband firms set out in-contract price rises clearly enough before customers signed up. The regulator said it was concerned that people who took out contracts between March 1 2021 and June 16 2022 might not have been given clear enough information about the price rises. The rules say that companies must set out any potential future price rises prominently and transparently at the point of sale.

Auction group upbeat

Auction Technology Group has reported a 137 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £9.3 million in the year to the end of September after a loss of £25 million in the previous 12 months. Revenue rose 71 per cent to £119.8 million from £70.1 million. No dividend was declared. John-Paul Savant, the chief executive, said: "Even as we are facing high levels of macroeconomic uncertainty, we are confident about the future." The group's shares closed down 69p, or 8.1 per cent, at 788p.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	34395.01 (-194.76)
Nasdaq Composite	11482.45 (+14.45)
S&P 500	4076.57 (-3.54)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	28226.08 (+257.09)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18736.44 (+139.21)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	731.74 (+7.64)
Sydney	
AO	7554.00 (+73.30)
Frankfurt	
DAX	14490.30 (+93.26)
Singapore	
Straits	3292.73 (+2.24)
Brussels	
BEL20	3697.81 (+12.83)
Paris	
CAC-40	6753.97 (+15.42)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11238.20 (+110.43)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	3984.50 (+19.78)
London	
FTSE 100	7558.49 (-14.56)
FTSE 250	19409.42 (+246.09)
FTSE 350	4181.79 (+0.94)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3462.83 (+20.04)
FTSE All-Shares	4141.04 (+1.39)
FTSE Non Financials	5073.92 (+2.72)
techMARK 100	6385.89 (+40.40)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2255 (+0.0182)
Euro	1.1662 (+0.0083)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	78.67 (-0.44)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	126.20 Oct (2015 = 100)
RPI	356.20 Oct (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Dec 22	107.39	107.40	106.80	106.91	1437	74211
	Mar 23	106.05	106.19	105.36	105.54	162849	405028
3-Mth Sterling	Dec 22	98.820	98.825	98.790	98.806	7310	347378
	Mar 23	98.785	98.795	98.755	98.771	8310	229855
	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
3-Mth Euribor	Dec 22	97.835	97.860	97.830	97.850	158056	680220
	Mar 23	97.200	97.235	97.190	97.215	119954	545565
	Jun 23	97.040	97.095	97.020	97.070	117534	466905
	Sep 23	97.025	97.100	97.020	97.070	110660	427446
	Dec 23	97.115	97.185	97.100	97.150	138317	389014
3-Mth Euroswiss	Dec 22	100.61	100.62	100.59	100.62	488	22748
	Mar 23						
	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
FTSE100	Dec 22	7614.5	7630.0	7559.0	7567.0	103112	597863
	Mar 23	7617.5	7688.0	7561.5	7568.5	428	2395
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 22				5403.0		
	Mar 23				5424.0		

Tradeweb © 2021 Tradeweb Markets LLC. All rights reserved. The Tradeweb FTSE Gilt Closing Prices information contained herein is proprietary to Tradeweb; may not be copied or re-distributed; is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and does not constitute investment advice. Tradeweb is not responsible for any loss or damage that might result from the use of this information.

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	87.22	+0.40
BFOE(Feb)	86.99	-0.09
BFOE(Mar)	86.96	+0.21
WTI(Feb)	81.14	+0.48
WTI(Mar)	81.03	+0.52

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	805.00	808.00	+22.00
Gasoil EEC	938.75	939.75	+25.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	352.00	355.00	+20.00
Naphtha	667.00	668.00	+24.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Dec	938.50-937.75	Mar	908.75-907.25
Jan	940.00-939.75	Apr	887.25-885.50
Feb	927.75-927.25		Volume: 606136

Brent (9.00pm)

Feb	87.76-87.74	May	87.04-87.00
Mar	87.63-87.61	Jun	86.54-86.51
Apr	87.38-87.34		Volume: 1737441

LIFFE

Cocoa

Dec	2188-2149	Mar	1830-1801
Mar	1982-1980	May	1888-1789
May	1917-1909	Jul	1880-1775
Jul	1899-1876		
Sep	1864-1851		
Dec	1855-1839		Volume: 72815

RobustaCoffee

Jan	1894-1890	Sep	1843-1807
Mar	1854-1851	Nov	2025-1803
May	1850-1830		
Jul	1844-1805		Volume: 34505

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	493.10-492.00
		Dec	486.10-482.20
Mar	539.70-538.80	Mar	479.40-477.20
May	527.70-526.10	May	471.60-468.00
Aug	511.30-508.50		Volume: 62282

HOTEL CHOCOLAT



Japan loses taste for Chocolat

Hotel Chocolat's pandemic recovery has been stalled by the near collapse of its business in Japan (Emma Taggart writes).

The Aim-quoted chocolatier has written off £22.6 million from its Japanese business taking it to a £9.4 million loss in the year to June 26, down from a profit of £3.7 million last year.

Angus Thirlwell, chief executive, said the write-off "was the right thing for us to do", and "nobody gets international right the first time".

Founded in 1993 by Thirlwell and Peter Harris, the premium British chocolatier sells its products online and from more than 100 stores in the UK. It runs an organic cacao farm in St Lucia.

Revenue rose by 37 per cent to £226.1 million, up from £164.6 million last year. After pandemic restrictions ended, store sales in the UK rose by 23 per cent compared with 2019.

In a new strategy, the US business will move to an online and wholesale-only model.

The Japanese arm is still trading while it restructures and tries to find funding. Thirlwell said he was interested in pursuing a brand licensing arrangement in the country.

Wayne Brown, an analyst at house broker Liberum, said the company was "undergoing a strategic shift from high growth to a plan that can deliver greater returns, high margins, and cash flows". The restructuring would "simplify the business significantly".

The shares closed up 2p, or 1.4 per cent, at 147p.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Bridgepoint Group Rallies with wider FTSE 250	8.2%
Foresight Group Upbeat interim results	7.1%
Ocado US partner Kroger lifts annual sales forecast	6.8%
Future Recovers some losses	5.8%
Darktrace Redburn starts coverage with buy rating	4.3%
Ninety One Trades ex-dividend	-5.1%
Pearson Rating downgrade from Exane BNP Paribas	-5.2%
Auction Technology Group Dull margin outlook	-8.1%
Investec Tracks South African stocks lower	-9.4%
Tribal Group Cuts annual guidance	-17.8%

Dining out on Deliveroo as downturn fears rejected



Jessica Newman **Market report**

Investors tucked into Deliveroo after analysts dismissed concerns that the cost of living crisis will eat into the food delivery group's gross transaction value (GTV).

With food a necessity, to see GMV — the total value of orders — evaporate as consumers tighten their purse strings won't be because people stop eating, Jefferies analysts argued, it will be because they decide to revert to "pre-digital-era behaviour". But they reckon **Deliveroo** is much more able to manage the churn given people can now order their supermarket go–to's via its platform; its subscription programme; and its quick and cheap deliveries.

Giles Thorne, an analyst at the US bank, said Deliveroo's early move into grocery in particular has had multiple benefits including protecting GTV. He also applauded the exit from Australia saying it has "jettisoned the last of its problematic markets" and doesn't think it will pull out of any others.

"Deliveroo remains an under-appreciated equity," Thorne said as he repeated his "buy" rating. Investors were in agreement as the shares jumped 6p, or 6.8 per cent, to 93¼p.

After pushing up to six-month highs in early dealings as the Federal Reserve hinted it could start slowing the pace of interest rate rises, the FTSE 100 ended 14.56 points, or 0.2 per cent, lower at 7,558.49 as a result of weaker energy stocks. The more UK-focused FTSE 250 rose 246.09 points, or 1.3 per cent, to 19,409.42.

The stronger pound held back Shell and BP who make a lot of their money overseas despite higher oil prices. Shares in **Shell** fell 62p, or 2.5 per cent, to £23.82, while **BP** lost 8¼p, or 1.6 per cent, to 489½p.

Also weighing on the FTSE 100 was miner **Anglo American**, which fell down 106p, or 3.1 per cent, to £33.02 after RBC said it was not an exception for the industry's challenging backdrop as they cut its rating from "outperform" to "sector perform".

Education group **Pearson** had its biggest daily fall since March, down 51½p, or 5.2 per cent, to 943½p after BNP Paribas Exane cut its "outperform" guidance to "neutral".

Ocado, however, jumped 42¼p, or 6.8 per cent, to 664¾p after Kroger, the online grocer's biggest client, upgraded its full-year outlook. Hopes of less aggressive interest rate rises and falling bond yields lifted Barratt Developments, up 8p, or 2 per cent, to 405½p and warehouse landlord **Segro** rose 16p, or 2 per cent, to 807p.

Essentra, the FTSE 250 components supplier, rose 4½p, or 1.8 per cent, to 248½p after it said it had bought Wixroyd for £29.5 million. The acquisition of Wixroyd, which supplies industrial parts for the engineering sector, is expected to deliver profit margins significantly ahead of the group's current level, which pushed the shares up.

Half-year results from **Foresight Group** impressed investors as shares in the asset manager advanced 24p, or 7.1 per cent, to 360p. The company, which listed last year, manages more than 350 infrastructure assets mainly green energy investments such as onshore wind, solar and sustainable forestry. The group reported a 41 per cent rise in assets under management to £12.5 billion in the six months to the end of September, boosting profits which nearly doubled to £25.4 million.

Shares in **Tribal Group** crashed to their lowest in more than two years as the education software group warned that delays to a contract with Nanyang Technology University in Singapore had driven up costs. The delays will result in a £9 million hit to full-year earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation. It expects a £12 million loss over the lifetime of the contract. Tribal's shares fell 10p, or 17.9 per cent, to 46p.

Wall Street report

After a strong mid-week rally prompted by hopes of smaller rate rises indices endured a mixed session with weak economic data dampening sentiment. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 194.76 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 34,395.01.

MEDIA

Trailer hire firm plays a blinder

A London-listed company whose production trailers have been used on the sets of *The Crown* and *Peaky Blinders* has snapped up the UK's largest film and television location service and equipment hire company.

Facilities by ADF, which listed on Aim in January, has bought Location One Limited, a Barking-based business that counts Amazon Studios, Netflix and the BBC as clients.

Total consideration for the purchase is nearly £8.9 million, with 50 per cent payable in cash on completion. The deal, the company said, will be immediately earnings accretive.



ADF has provided set services for Peaky Blinders and The Crown

Location One was founded in 2008 in the garage owned by Crispin Hardy, the managing director, and stocked with just "two browsers, some tables and chairs and battery lights." It now employs 80 people and has five branches. Last year it had sales of £9.2 million.

ADF, based in Bridgend, south Wales, started life as Andy Dixon Facilities in 1991 with an old bus that Andy Dixon, its founder, turned into a dining trailer. It now has more than 600 vehicles, ranging from portable lavatories to smart trailers.

ADF's shares rose 5½p, or 10 per cent, to close at a four-month high of 60½p.

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jan	287.25	Mar	253.50	May	251.00
Jul	unq	Nov	236.00	Volume: 1019	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

	Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	8216.0-8216.5	8250.0-8251.0	8225.0-8235.0
Lead ($/tonne)	2154.0-2155.0	2169.0-2170.0	2170.0-2175.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	3056.0-3056.5	3050.0-3050.5	3000.0-3005.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)	2430.0-2430.5	2459.5-2460.5	2525.0-2530.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	26900.0-26950.0	26900.0-26950.0	27490.0-27540.0
Tin ($/tonne)	23095.0-23105.0	23100.0-23150.0	21960.0-22010.0 (15mth)

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Wednesday.

Bullion: Open $1773.53
Close $1801.88-1802.12 **High** $1803.23
Low $1772.08
AM $1759.65 **PM** $1753.50
Krugerrand $1783.00-2879.00 (£1455.14-2349.61)
Platinum $1048.32 (£855.55)
Silver $22.65 (£18.48)
Palladium $1934.47 (£1578.76)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	3.25	3.68	4.24	0.81
Euror	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 3.00 ECB Refi 2.00 US Fed Fd 3.75-4.00

Halifax Mortgage Rate 5.74

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 3.260; 3 mth 3.125. Sell: 1 mth 2.500; 3 mth 2.600

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	3.2538	0.0000	3.6827	4.2369	0.0000
Eurodollar Deps	4.19-4.25	4.65-4.90	4.67-4.92	5.00-5.25	5.53-5.60

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6052-8.6997	8.6750-8.6762	143ds	436ds
Euro	1.1698-1.1573	1.1667-1.1666	13pr	38pr
Montreal	1.6194-1.6514	1.6451-1.6452	10pr	19pr
New York	1.2072-1.2296	1.2253-1.2253	15pr	32pr
Oslo	11.838-11.979	11.940-11.943	5ds	4pr
Stockholm	12.626-12.738	12.657-12.661	324ds	771ds
Tokyo	164.54-167.12	165.95-165.95	51ds	160ds
Zurich	1.1388-1.1534	1.1494-1.1495	36ds	97ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.4690-1.4692
Canada	1.3427-1.3427
Denmark	7.0804-7.0809
Euro	0.9521-0.9521
Hong Kong	7.7788-7.7791
Japan	135.43-135.44
Malaysia	4.4450-4.4500
Norway	9.7450-9.7470
Singapore	1.3544-1.3545
Sweden	10.330-10.333
Switzerland	0.9381-0.9382

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	205.51-205.52
Australia dollar	1.8001-1.8002
Bahrain dinar	0.4587-0.4657
Brazil real	6.3412-6.3573
Euro	1.1665-1.1666
Hong Kong dollar	9.5306-9.5316
India rupee	99.437-99.459
Indonesia rupiah	18869-18872
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3745-0.3768
Malaysia ringgit	5.4469-5.4530
New Zealand dollar	1.9224-1.9228
Singapore dollar	1.6594-1.6597
S Africa rand	21.577-21.588
U A E dirham	4.4970-4.4995

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.801	+0.02
Canada $	1.647	+0.03
Denmark Kr	8.700	+0.10
Euro €	1.170	+0.01
Hong Kong $	9.542	+0.25
Hungary	481.249	+7.13
Indonesia	19090.407	+355.74
Israel Shk	4.161	+0.05
Japan Yen	166.744	+0.57
New Zealand $	1.924	+0.01
Norway Kr	11.959	+0.08
Poland	5.477	+0.07
Russia	75.626	+3.10
S Africa Rd	21.591	+1.35
Sweden Kr	12.704	
Switzerland Fr	1.152	+0.02
Turkey Lira	22.859	+0.72
USA $	1.227	+0.04

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the last month's ending share price
12 month high and low Please note the 12 month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
574¼	89½	Aston Martin Lag	136	+ 5⅛	...	-0.8

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
254¾	133	abrdn	200⅜	+ 6	7.2	4.3
3266	1729	**Admiral**	2059	+ 33	7.3	10.5
85	46½	ADVFN♦	47½	...	3.1	8.3
404⅛	246⅛	AJ Bell	360	– 3¾	1.9	33.7
27480	20469⅜	Aon Corpn	24813¾	– 317	0.5	60.5
42⅛	21½	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	+ ⅛	2.3	18.3
1030	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦	830	...	1.9	18.3
20	11	Argo Group♦	11	...	...	5.0
314¾	180⅞	Ashmore Gp‡	229½	+ 3½	7.3	7.8
1590⅜	1170½	Aus New Z	1385⅛	+ 11⅝	5.8	10.8
602⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	445½	+ 1⅛	4.7	58.6
290⅞	193⅜	Banco Santander	240	– 4½	2.6	5.7
2545	986	Bank of Georgia	2510	– 20	...	7.7
217	135⅝	**Barclays**	158¼	– 2⅞	1.9	3.8
½	⅛	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	2.7
359	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	300	+ 3	0.8	8.2
42	7⅞	Braveheart Inv♦	8⅝	– ⅛	...	0.2
517	266	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	2.8	28.1
530	173⅞	Bridgepoint	212½	+ 16	...	13.2
82	40	Cenkos Secs♦	45½	...	7.6	9.2
325	256½	Chesnara	292	+ 2½	7.5	16.2
68	31	City of Lon Gp♦	49	...	...	-3.3
530	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	430	+ 5	7.6	10.0
1452	894	Close Bros	1088	+ 17	5.5	8.1
317	211½	CMC Markets‡	236	– 2	12.9	7.2
789⅝	483¾	Commerzbk	660	– 24¼	...	33.8
1240	651⅛	Deutsche Bk	846⅝	– 18½	...	9.9
312¼	177⅝	Direct Line Ins	208½	– ⅛	10.7	8.6
59½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	4.3	7.7
1⅛	⅜	Drumz♦	⅞	...	...	-7.5
181⅛	82¼	EFG-Hermes Hldg	82¼	+ 8⅛	...	5.3
365	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	148½	...	...	8.3
938⅛	649⅞	FBD	938⅛	...	...	4.1
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
83½	59	Frenkel Topping♦‡	74¼	+ ¼	1.8	43.1
761	458½	Georgia Capital	756	+ 1	...	2.0
1005	710	Gresham House♦	730	– 10	0.8	29.3
502	260	H&T Group♦	502	– 4	1.6	16.0
52	33	Hansard Global	41	– 2	10.8	14.1
1457½	740¾	**Hargreaves L**	852½	+ 9	4.5	15.2
194⅞	143⅜	Helios Under♦	157½	...	1.9	...
567⅛	414	**HSBC**	497⅞	– 11¾	3.2	10.8
847½	648	IG Group	836½	+ 17	5.1	8.5
1482	500	Impax♦	789	+ 12	1.3	26.0
2300	953⅛	**Intermed Cap**	1268	+ 74½	4.4	7.2
142⅜	71⅞	IPF	75⅜	– 2½	2.9	4.2
173¾	136	Intl Public Pntshp	150½	+ 1⅛	4.9	19.3
536¾	351½	Investec	469½	– 48½	2.7	11.8
320	260	Investment Co	260	...	0.3	9.3
123¾	52¾	IP Group	67¼	+ 1¼	1.4	2.5
300	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	156½	...	8.6	11.2
265	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	129¼	+ 5½	13.2	4.8
95⅜	55⅞	Just Group	77	+ 3	...	...
606	346½	Lancashire Hdgs	606	+ 12½	1.9	...
307¾	204	**Legal & Gen**	255¼	+ 3⅝	6.9	7.8
52100¼	502⅝	Liberty Group	502⅝	– 2⅝	...	...
2325	704	Liontrust	1130	+ 18	4.1	14.1
62	39½	Livermore Invs♦	40½	...	8.7	2.6
55⅛	39	**Lloyds Bkg Gp**	46⅛	– ¾	5.5	6.4
36½	29¼	LMS Capital	30½	– ½	2.9	13.2
8582	6370	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8270	+ 22	0.9	84.5
227¼	159⅞	**M&G**	191⅛	– 1	9.5	59.7
274⅞	178¾	Man	216⅝	+ 7⅝	3.8	8.6
17½	7½	Manx Fin♦	16½	...	1.0	8.3
3⅜	2	Marechale Cap♦	2¾	...	...	1.3
14719⅞	11889½	Marsh McLn	14058	– 59½	1.4	29.2
892½	530	Mattioli Woods♦	625	...	3.3	...
21¾	11½	Metal Tiger♦	11½	+ ⅛	...	4.4
104⅛	69	Metro Bank	96⅛	+ ⅛	...	-0.6
1873½	1445¼	Nat Aust Bk	1758¾	+ 7¾	2.7	17.4
283⅜	207⅝	**NWG**	257⅜	– 4½	4.0	10.1
343	170⅜	Numis♦	174⅛	+ 3½	6.8	3.5
599	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	483½	+ 5¾	4.0	6.4
691	522	PayPoint	538	+ 1	5.9	16.8
14	¼	PCF Group♦	½	...	...	-0.2
701⅜	506¾	**Phoenix Gp**	591	+ 2⅛	8.1	-6.8
381½	136¼	Provident	195¾	– 1½	...	3.6
1419½	797½	**Prudential**	1016	+ 36½	1.1	16.5
3⅛	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	⅞	...	...	-4.8
179½	82	Quilter	99⅛	– 2⅛	5.3	70.8
177⅞	60⅜	Randall & Quilter♦	60⅜	– 2	6.4	90.0
2210	1518	Rathbone Grp	2115	+ 5	3.5	16.3
1⅜	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	¾	...	2.6	2.2
1690	1370	Rockwood Strategic	1595	– 85	1.7	2.3
2830	1905	S & U	2090	– 90	4.3	9.8
2¾	1½	Sancus Lending Grp♦	1½	...	...	-0.7
60¾	40¾	Schroder REIT‡	45	+ ⅛	5.6	4.7
727⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	463⅜	+ 21	25.0	2.1
1731½	920	**St James Place**	1167½	+ 18	5.2	22.2
638½	411½	**Stand Chart**	594¾	– 22½	1.4	13.3
15½	7¼	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
33	22½	STM Group♦	29	...	4.8	11.1
4560⅞	3334⅞	Sun Life Can	3862⅜	– 6⅝	3.5	9.8
10	3⅝	Tavistock Inv♦	8¼	+ ⅝	0.6	1.3
2270	901	TBC Bank Group	2200	+ 15	1.6	6.4
19¾	7	Tern♦	10½	...	...	7.8
27	15¼	Time Finance♦	18¾	...	...	11.4
1300	900	Volvere♦	1095	+ 35	...	...
51½	25	WH Ireland♦	27½	– ½	...	15.4
33½	27	Walker Crips Grp	29½	...	2.5	84.2
4864⅞	3083⅛	Wells Fargo	3826⅛	– 82⅝	1.4	10.4
1374½	1070	Westpac	1328	+ 8¼	3.5	17.9
30⅛	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	23¼	– ⅛	...	72.8
40238⅞	33090⅛	Zurich Fincl	39382	+ 69⅜	4.1	15.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1477	1042	**3I Group**	1315½	– 33	3.2	-8.7
368½	248¾	3i Infrastructure	327	+ 2	3.3	1.4
104½	83⅛	Abrdn Div I&G	96	– ⅞	4.7	-17.5
1488	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1292	+ 2	2.5	-12.1
1047¼	867¾	Alliance	981	+ 7	2.3	-6.5
523	352	Asia Dragon Tr	410	– 1	1.3	-13.1
248	183½	Athelney Trust	210	...	4.4	-6.7
1088⅞	169	AVI Global Trust	199	+ 1½	1.5	-9.8
404½	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	250½	– 5¾	1.6	-8.7
156	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	90½	+ 1⅛	0.3	-13.2
1015¾	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	792	+ 15	1.1	-4.8
240⅝	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	158	+ ¾	...	-7.6
246	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	168⅛	+ 2⅜	2.0	-12.5
124½	90⅞	Bankers	102½	+ ⅛	2.0	-8.1
5232	3610	BH Macro	4630	+ 15	...	12.5
1217½	722¼	Biotech Growth	937	– 6	...	-8.7
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	134½	– ½	3.0	-6.8
140	114	BlckRck Fro Inv	130¾	– ½	3.7	-10.7
714	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	480	– ¼	1.3	-4.7
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	191	...	3.5	-7.2
457	315	BlckRck Latin Am	377	+ 5½	4.9	-15.8
214	183¼	BlckRck Sustain American Inc	205½	– ½	3.6	-5.5
2140	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1376	+ 24	2.4	-14.6
975⅝	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	608	+ 13	1.7	-4.9
804⅞	524	BlckRck Wld Min	701	+ 8	6.4	-0.9
25	7¼	Blue Plan Int Fn#	9½	...	...	-19.4
340	256	BMO Cap&Inc	297½	+ 1	3.9	-2.4
124⅛	68½	BMO Comm Prop	92¼	+ 2¼	3.3	-35.5
172¾	122	BMO Glbl Smaller	149	+ 2	1.1	-12.1
520	375½	BMO Priv Eq Ord	441	– 12	3.3	-36.1
101	67⅜	BMO Real Estate	71⅛	...	3.3	-41.9
95	71	BMO UK HIT	82½	...	6.1	-8.4
95	79	BMO UK HIT B	84	...	...	-6.7
376	294	BMO UK HIT UNIT	328	...	4.5	-8.9
1495	1072½	Brown Advsr US Smlr	1275	+ 5	...	-12.9
1135	888	Brunner	1025	+ 5	1.8	-13.1
4075	3015	Caledonia Inv	3970	+ 150	4.8	-23.9
191½	141	Invesco BondInc	165½	+ 1¼	6.9	1.3
427	363¼	City of Lon IT	412	+ 2½	5.0	1.3
123½	96	Crystal Amber Fd	101	+ 1	23.2	-21.0
555	452¾	Dunedin Entp	520	...	8.9	-5.0
653½	537	Edinburgh IT	640	+ 8	3.8	-8.1
316⅝	154½	Edin Wwide	184⅜	+ 7⅜	...	-11.7
324¼	268	EP Global Opp	308	+ 2	1.4	-15.1
142	74½	European Assets	93½	+ ⅜	8.9	-3.1
847	608	European Opp Tr	756	+ 13	0.3	-12.0
942	767⅛	**F&C Investment Tr**	928	+ 4	1.4	-4.0
485	406⅛	Fidlty Asian Val	475	+ 3	2.7	-9.7
332	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	223½	+ 2½	2.1	-11.2
384¼	256½	Fidlty Euro Val	325	+ 3½	2.1	-5.8
246½	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	174¾	+ 3¾	...	-9.8
311	232	Fidlty Spec Val	280	...	2.3	-5.6
925	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	868	+ 4	1.9	-5.3
120⅛	85⅝	GCP Infrastructure	98⅛	+ ⅛	5.8	-12.7
835	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	615⅜	+ 14⅝	1.9	-16.1
55	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	35⅛	+ 1¾	...	-14.0
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	152¾	+ 3	5.9	-2.9
219⅞	166	Hansa Investment	179½	– ½	1.0	-41.3
221	170	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	175	...	1.0	-42.9
2860	1986	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2340	+ 90	...	-45.3
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	149	+ 1	2.1	-11.8
185½	137¼	Hend High Inc	169¾	...	6.1	0.5
1242	674¼	Hend Smlr	854	+ 31	2.6	-10.9
2510	1540	Herald	1844	+ 36	...	-16.1
457½	310	HgCapital Trust	372½	+ 8½	1.6	-19.0
184⅞	138⅞	HICL Infra	165⅛	+ 1⅛	5.0	0.2
286	216	Highbridge Tactical	235	+ 1	...	-12.4
1300	928	ICG Ent Tr	1196	+ 32	1.1	-37.2
570	370⅞	Impax Env Mkts	432	...	0.6	-1.0
366	280	Invesco Asia Tr	328	– 1	4.0	-11.7
191½	141	Invesco BondInc	165½	+ 1¼	6.9	1.3
176	111	IPST Bal	127	+ 9½	...	-18.4
250	200	IPST Gbl Eq	224	...	2.8	-10.5
102⅝	93	IPST Managed	96	...	0.9	-10.0
199⅞	141	IPST UK Eq	162¾	– 2¼	3.6	-10.0
620	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	429½	+ 7	1.7	-15.6
800	650	JPM American	722	+ 3	0.9	-5.3
462	294½	JPM Asia	353¾	– 2	4.2	-10.0
546	246½	JPM Chinese	323	– 4	5.9	-6.9
778	610¼	JPM Claverhs	710	...	4.6	...
105	99	JPM Elect Mg C	103	...	0.2	-0.5
1115¼	886¼	JPM Elect Mg G	970	...	2.0	-2.5
111	88	JPM Elect Mg I	99½	...	4.6	-2.6
132⅛	91	JPM Em Mkts	107½	+ 1⅛	1.1	-10.2
548	339	JPM Euro disc	416	+ 8	1.5	-11.0
150⅛	108	JPM GEMI	124½	+ 1	3.7	-12.3
474	386	JPM GG&I	439½	+ 2	3.7	-3.0
898	691¼	JPM Indian	864	+ 12	...	-20.1
510	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	338	– 2½	4.4	-6.2
694	408½	JPM Japan#	486	+ 9½	1.0	-6.1
1375	735	JPM Mid Cap	898	+ 3	2.9	-12.6
108¼	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass Grw & Inc	93½	...	4.3	-4.1
794	55⅛	JPM Russian	83	– ¼	53.4	79.6
408	230	JPM Smllr Co	293	+ 1½	2.1	-9.5
335	174	Keystone IT	217	+ 2¼	1.6	-13.4
829	649	Law Debenture	783	+ 2	3.9	2.0
143¼	99	Lowland	118	+ 2	4.8	-10.7
246	156¾	Majedie	192½	– 4½	4.6	-20.1
432⅞	272⅛	M Currie Port	307	+ 6	1.3	-4.6
121⅞	90	Marwyn Val In	95	...	5.3	-44.4
272	158¼	Mercantile IT	203½	+ 4½	3.1	-12.5
591	480	Merchants	565	+ 2	5.0	1.0
870	639¾	Mid Wynd	722	+ 5	1.4	-0.9
1410	875	Monks Inv Tst	1006	+ 13½	0.2	-10.3
221	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	135¼	+ 1⅝	0.6	-8.9
928	715	Murray Income Trust	845	+ 6	4.0	-7.1
1352	1090	Murray Int	1350	+ 14	4.2	-0.7
90½	72⅝	Nb Global Floating	74¼	...	6.8	-7.0
370¼	286¼	Pacific Assets	360	+ 3	0.4	-9.4
342½	229⅛	Pantheon Int	278	+ 7½	...	-43.5
3125	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2945	– 20	0.9	-34.1
507	465½	Personal Assets	484½	+ 5½	1.4	0.6
2751¼	1764	Polar Cap Tech	1938	+ 64	...	-12.7
202	143⅛	Prem Glb & Inf	162	– 1	3.8	-12.7
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	132⅛	+ 3½	5.1	-3.8
2760	1928	RIT Cap Ptnr	2265	+ 65	...	-9.0
750	454¾	Riverstone	716	– 4	...	-45.5
524	366½	Schroder TotRt	419	– 1	1.9	-6.0
610	446	Schrd Asia Pac	517	+ 1	1.7	-11.0
319½	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	297½	+ 3½	4.4	-1.6
221	185⅞	Schrod Jap Gwth	207½	...	2.1	-10.7
718	454	Schrod UKMid	550	+ 7	2.6	-13.9
34½	14¾	Schroder UK PP Tr	15¾	...	...	-48.2
546	434	Scot American	520	+ 4	2.7	0.1
1511	670½	**Scot Mtge**	796⅜	+ 26¾	0.4	-9.3
242	207	Secs Tst Scot	231	+ 1½	2.6	-0.1
108	75½	Sequoia Eco	88½	+ 1⅛	6.9	-4.0
255¾	195⅛	Temple Bar	229	– 1½	3.6	-5.7
183¾	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	148⅜	– ⅛	2.2	-13.3
⅜	⅛	Tiger Royal and Invest♦	⅛	...	...	87.5
496	263	TR Property	317	+ 5	4.5	-6.7
83	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	71	+ ⅜	2.0	-2.1
260	154¾	Utilico Ord	168	...	3.3	-28.7
227½	196½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	204	– 3	3.3	-15.6
147	139⅝	UtilFin RdZDP 2022	139	– 6	...	-5.5
776⅞	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	585	+ 13	...	-10.9
252	199¾	Witan	224½	+ ½	2.4	-7.4
3662½	2820	Ww Health	3355	+ 55	0.7	-8.5

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times
40% off
Celebrating seven decades of state visits
A striking collection of the Queen's most memorable Commonwealth visits as they unfolded across the globe.


Christmas offer
~~RRP £25.00~~ £15.00
Use code TIMESXMAS40
at timesbooks.co.uk
Offer valid until 11th December 2022
timesbooks.co.uk

Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
237½	133	Alumasc♦	152½	– 3½	6.2	7.7
18½	10¼	Aseana Props	11	...	...	-5.4
71¾	48⅝	Assura Grp	54⅝	+ 1	5.3	10.9
2⅜	1⅜	Aukett Swanke♦	2¼	...	...	-3.2
340⅜	215½	Balfour Beatty‡	328	+ 4⅛	1.3	15.5
760	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	405½	+ 7¾	7.2	6.3
3363	1586½	Bellway‡	1958	– 48	6.0	5.8
4903	3165	**Berkeley**	3847	+ 36	0.2	10.0
1724	987	Big Yellow Group	1123	+ 33	3.0	7.4
282	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	225	...	1.8	18.2
345	227	Boot (Henry)	233	– 1	2.3	12.4
556⅜	324¾	**Br Land**‡	397	+ 2⅝	3.7	54.3
160	110	Caledonian Tst♦	135	...	...	26.9
179¼	95½	Cap & Count Prop	102	+ ½	0.4	30.0
65	43¾	Cap & Regnl	52¾	– 1⅜	...	-0.4
2550	1950	Cardiff Prop	2420	...	0.7	26.3
38½	17	Carecapital♦	17	...	...	-2.0
173	106	Clarke T	122	– ½	3.6	8.7
231	131⅜	CLS Hldgs	157⅜	– 4½	4.8	5.3
464¾	191⅝	Countryside Prop	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
37⅞	6⅛	Craven House♦	7¼	...	...	-0.1
4002	2756½	**CRH**	3278½	– 14	2.6	13.6
3528	1876	Derwent London	2358	+ 14	3.2	10.5
4¼	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
36½	23	First Prop♦	23½	...	1.9	...
52½	36½	Fletcher King♦	42½	– 1	...	...
46⅝	27¼	Foxtons Group	31⅝	– ¼	0.5	...
190⅞	145	Galliford Try‡	158½	+ 1⅛	2.9	35.2
620	252½	Genuit Group	325	+ 12	2.7	19.7
800	337	Gleeson (MJ)	371	+ 11	4.0	5.8
1255	630½	Grafton Gp Uts	793¾	+ 15½	4.4	9.2
319⅛	205⅜	Grainger	241¾	– ¾	2.2	15.0
741	409⅛	Gr Portland‡	502½	+ 4¼	2.5	-6.3
39⅞	17⅛	Hammerson	23	– 1	1.7	-2.4
191	101	Harworth Gp	105	– 1	1.7	3.6
630	450	Heath (Samuel)♦	450	...	1.5	9.3
454	296½	Helical PLC‡	340	+ 5	2.9	8.2
1065	875	Highcroft Invs	965	...	5.3	4.1
208⅛	148½	Ibstock	160⅞	+ 2⅞	2.5	20.9
314	181	James Halstead♦‡	194	– 2½	3.9	20.6
1000	591	Keller	741	+ 8	4.8	8.6
9174⅝	3848¼	Kingspan Group	4720½	+ 117⅞	0.7	18.5
813⅛	485¼	**Land Sec**‡	613⅛	– 1	5.5	...
105	71½	Life Science Reit	73⅞	...	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	20	+ 1	...	-2.7
285⅛	161¾	London Metric Prop‡	177⅞	+ ⅞	4.9	3.7
59	37	Macau Prop Op	46	+ ⅜	...	-5.9
720¼	225⅜	Marshalls‡	288¾	– 1⅛	3.1	10.5
138	74	Michelmersh♦‡	98½	+ 1	3.7	15.7
2540	1392	Morgan Sindall	1624	+ 6	4.3	7.9
14750	11100	Mountview	12050	...	3.5	15.0
100	68¼	NewRiver REIT	81½	+ 2	3.6	-2.8
297	195	Palace Capital	218	+ 8	5.0	10.4
310	255	Panther Securities♦	295	– 5	4.0	2.6
2883	1138½	**Persimmon**	1285	+ 13	18.2	5.2
8	2¾	Pires Investments♦	3½	+ ⅛	...	-7.8
175	55	Plaza Cent	55	– 10	...	-0.1
153	98⅝	Primary Hlth	110½	– ⅝	5.6	11.2
40½	29½	Real Estate Invs♦	30	– 1¼	12.5	3.9
709	372½	Redrow	469	+ 11½	5.2	5.8
1418	794	Safestore	925½	+ 18½	2.1	5.2
1450	763½	Savills	952	+ 4½	2.4	9.5
7¼	5¾	Secure Property♦	5¾	...	...	15.2
1436½	694	**Segro**	806¾	+ 16	2.8	2.3
51½	27¾	SIG	31	+ 1⅜	...	...
98½	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	54	– ⅜	...	...
142¾	66½	Sirius Real Estate	80¾	– 1½	4.0	6.3
161½	146½	Smart (J)	160½	...	2.0	4.3
50	26	Steppe Cement♦‡	43½	...	8.7	10.0
178	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	104⅝	+ 1¼	7.9	6.8
178½	129	Town Centre	163½	– ½	2.1	6.4
1635	738	Travis Perkins	948½	+ 24	1.2	9.2
249	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit	145½	+ 2½	4.4	2.6
118	58⅝	Tritax Eurobox	65⅜	+ 2⅜	...	...
414	184½	Tyman	226	+ 3½	3.5	8.9
1207	791½	**UNITE GRP**	934	+ 11½	2.0	10.9
1225	519½	Vistry Group	630½	+ 11½	6.3	5.5
176¾	105⅜	Warehouse REIT‡	109	– 1	5.6	2.5
887	343⅜	Workspace Grp	430½	+ 6¾	4.1	-6.4
755	645	Wynnstay Props♦‡	670	...	3.1	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
6¾	4	Agriterra♦	5	...	...	-0.6
30½	25	Airea♦	25½	...	...	9.4
952	672	Anglo-Eastern	780	– 10	...	7.1
355	207½	Animalcare♦	225	...	1.7	...
2131	1237	**AB Foods**	1587½	+ 6½	0.3	26.2
133½	79	Bakkavor Group	91½	– ⅛	7.2	9.5
588	432	Barr (AG)	504	– 1	...	17.9
5⅝	1¾	Bidstack Group♦	3	...	...	-2.5
124	26	Brand Architekts♦	26	– ½	...	-1.1
3628	2530	**Brit Amer Tob**	3391	...	6.3	11.4
949½	707½	Britvic	818½	+ 15	2.9	18.5
2151	1482	**Burberry Grp**	2151	– 26	1.9	18.5
246¾	143⅞	C&C Grp	183⅛	+ 8½	...	...
10¾	4⅜	Capital Metals♦	4¾	...	...	-1.2
160	92	Carr's Grp	120	+ 2	4.1	14.8
640	363	Character Grp♦	370	...	2.4	6.6
1797½	1070	Churchill China♦	1170	...	...	...
2687	1460½	**Coca Cola HBC**	2015	...	2.6	16.1
880	595	Colefax♦	655	...	...	11.5
3820	2586	Cranswick	3088	+ 12	2.2	16.3
302	164	Devro‡	302	– 4	3.0	16.4
4103½	3343	**Diageo**	3846	+ 38	1.8	29.5
1⅞	⅝	Distil♦	¾	...	...	18.7
1085	784	Evans (M.P.)♦	902	+ 12	3.0	7.7
101	66½	Finsbury Food♦‡	87½	...	2.7	10.4
10090	1722	Games Workshop	7430	+ 65	3.4	20.4
1127½	832¼	Glanbia	993¾	+ 3¾	2.3	24.5
141	63¾	Greencore	63¾	– ½	...	12.7
459	231	Headlam	309	+ 6	2.5	13.3
1250	529	Hilton Food‡	535	– 6	4.1	11.1
57	25½	Hornby♦	28½	...	...	...
2185	1486	**Imperial Brands**‡	2106	– 19	6.5	7.0
1⅞	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	...	...	7.8
10272¼	7437½	Kerry Gp	7843¼	+ 330¾	0.9	21.7
66⅛	15½	McBride	20	– 1	...	-3.5
365	200	Mulberry Group♦	250	– 12	...	10.3
1540	1055	Nichols♦	1085	– 7½	1.7	...
327	165	Norcros‡	185	– 2½	4.4	5.8
375⅛	291¾	Origin Ents♦	337⅝	+ 17	2.7	10.6
68	50	Pittards♦	62½	...	0.8	29.4
710	302½	Portmeirion♦	302½	...	4.3	12.8
1	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
214½	182¾	PZ Cussons	210½	+ 3½	2.8	24.2
200½	102	REA	113	+ 3	...	-8.9
3¼	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1¾	...	...	0.1
650	235	Tandem♦	281	...	3.1	4.0
1315	507	Treatt	679	+ 11	0.9	27.2
4½	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	3¼	...	...	-2.2
69⅜	9	Unbound Group♦	9	– ¼	...	...
4868½	4010	Unilever (NV)	4868½	+ 68	2.9	24.9
4179½	3328	**Unilever**‡	4179½	+ 35½	3.4	21.4
1210	317	Victoria♦	433	+ 7	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1381	739	Avon Rubber	1030	+ 1	2.8	...
367½	268½	Babcock	295	+ 11⅛	...	-1.8
846⅛	528¾	**BAE Sys**	815	– 7½	2.9	14.9
2350	1600	Braime A N/V♦	2050	...	0.5	23.1
2300	1480	Braime Group♦	1750	+ 50	0.6	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	500	...	...	7.2
6½	3	Cap XX Ld♦	4½	+ ¼	...	-9.6
374	279	Castings‡	346	– 9	4.4	16.7
7⅞	4¼	Chamberlin♦	4¼	...	...	-0.3
54	15½	Checkit♦	16	– ¼	...	-1.9
600	391	Cohort♦	410	...	2.7	36.4
343	158½	Crestchic Plc♦	343	– 6	...	...
1760	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1150	...	1.1	13.2
371	232⅞	Dialight	310	+ 18	...	...
1758⅛	908⅞	Electrolux 'B'	1187¾	+ 18⅝	5.4	8.9
180	86½	Feedback♦	86½	+ ½	...	...
1275	452½	Gooch Hsego♦	463½	– ½	0.9	34.3
3585	2400	Goodwin	3260	+ 5	3.1	18.0
3216	1876½	**Halma**	2219	+ 47	0.8	32.1
1826	893	Hill & Smith‡	1186	– 8	2.4	27.9
125	77½	Holders Tech♦	80	+ 2½	0.9	4.8
3¼	¾	Image Scan♦	⅞	...	...	5.7
1812	1071	IMI	1387	+ 39	1.6	18.9
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
8740	6090	Judges Scientific♦	7700	– 400	0.7	38.8
81	60	LPA♦	81	...	...	...
798¾	732¾	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
173½	95½	**Melrose**	130½	– 1⅝	1.2	...
373½	217	Morgan Advanced	304½	+ 2½	2.2	12.8
560	227½	Mpac♦	241½	+ 5½	...	6.3
335	213	MS Intl♦	332	...	1.0	47.4
2665	1720	Oxford Inst‡	2200	+ 40	0.7	30.0
2919⅛	1040⅜	Philips El nv	1221¾	+ 8½	5.8	21.7
36½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	13¼	...	...	28.1
101½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	31½	...	...	-2.6
5000	3342	Renishaw‡	3758	+ 66	1.7	21.4
32	20	Renold♦	22½	– ⅛	...	8.0
137½	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	86⅞	– 3⅞	...	59.1
2¾	1⅛	Ross Gp	1¼	...	...	-3.2
373⅜	229½	Rotork	309¾	+ 10¾	2.7	33.6
214	137½	SDI Group♦	168	– 3	...	27.7
152	111	Senior	123¾	+ 1	...	21.6
74⅜	48	Severfield	60⅝	– 1½	4.7	10.8
16¼	11¼	Six Hundred♦	12¼	– ½	...	71.6
1834⅛	1148¾	SKF B	1368⅜	+ 3⅞	4.1	10.1
270	175	Slingsby (HC)♦	270	...	...	4.4
1629	1364	**Smiths**	1595½	+ 7	2.3	25.3
1400⅛	946¾	Solid State♦	1305	+ 5	1.2	31.4
598	360	Somero Enter♦	375	...	4.2	8.3
3704	2458	Spectris	3198	+ 24	2.1	10.5
16255	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	11380	+ 175	1.0	35.8
57½	37	Surface Trsfms♦	42	– 1	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3¼	...	...	-9.0
495	345	Thorpe FW♦	426	+ 6	1.3	29.6
4¾	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.2
100½	48½	Transense Tech♦	92	– 3½	...	67.6
3500	2824	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	1.6	37.4
491	284½	Vesuvius	390	+ 10⅜	5.2	10.4
1530	1060	Videndum	1240	+ 44	1.2	22.7
369	225	Volex♦‡	270	+ 7	1.2	14.7
1897	1328½	Weir	1770	– 1½	0.6	29.9
5250	1464	XP Power	2080	+ 126	4.4	11.1
185	111¼	Zytronic♦	130	...	...	43.3

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1750	1049	Abcam♦	1360	+ 98	...	...
338	234½	AdvancedMedical♦	272	– 1½	0.6	42.7
35½	13¼	Allergy Therap♦	13¼	...	...	...
156	46½	Angle♦	53½	– 1½	...	-7.3
710	370	Anpario♦	510	...	1.6	26.8
11440	8191	**AstraZeneca**	11200	+ 34	1.8	...
46	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
245¾	166¾	**Convatec**	232	+ 1¾	1.7	54.1
102½	30¾	Creighton	30¾	– 6⅝	3.7	5.9
5325	2520	**Dechra Pharma**	2778	+ 58	1.4	41.4
1½	⅞	Deltex Medical♦	⅞	...	...	-5.2
48⅜	15⅜	e-Therapeutics♦	22¼	– ⅝	...	...
230	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	99	...	1.0	12.0
79½	30	EKF Diagnostics♦‡	43	+ 1	2.3	12.2
46¾	24⅝	Futura Medical♦	43¼	+ ¾	...	...
5010	2234	Genus‡	2970	+ 58	1.0	52.8
1828½	1296	**GSK**	1415⅜	+ 8½	5.6	16.3
1	⅜	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	4.0
316½	246⅛	**Haleon**	292⅞	+ 8¾	...	...
2312	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1541½	+ 27½	2.4	11.5
539	134½	Hutchmed China♦	217	– 3	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	0.5	...
8	2⅛	ImmuPharma♦	2⅛	– ⅛	...	-0.6
7025	1060	Indivior	1703	+ 9	...	97.4
126½	65	Inspiration Health♦‡	65	...	0.9	10.0
62	28	IXICO♦	29	...	...	9.2

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
501½	286⅜	Mediclinic Int	497⅛	+ 2	...	31.0
8½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	2	...	...	-2.3
88.42	72.84	Novartis	CHF 84.10	+ 0.45	3.3	9.3
33	2¼	Omega Diags♦	3¼	...	...	-1.3
22½	5½	Ovoca Bio♦	5½	...	...	-1.5
1366	297	Oxford Biomedica	406	+ 26½	...	18.2
6¾	2	Physiomics♦	2¼	...	...	-8.6
5⅝	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4	...	...	...
6808	5450	**Reckitt Benck**	6038	+ 90	2.8	...
147½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	33½	...	...	-3.2
307½	82½	Sareum Hldgs♦	87½	...	...	...
1338½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1078½	– 7	2.5	24.4
254½	206	Spire Hcare	236½	+ 6½	...	...
212½	16⅛	Synairgen♦	20	– 1¾	...	-0.8
½	¼	Tissue Regenix♦	½	...	...	-7.3
47½	27¾	Totally♦	33¼	...	1.5	52.7
495	292	Tristel♦‡	340	– 17	1.9	70.1
42	10½	ValiRx♦	15¾	– 1⅛	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
181	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	64	+ 1½	...	...
5889¾	3331⅛	BASF	4091¼	– 55⅞	6.7	8.0
5807½	3794⅝	Bayer DM50	4704¼	– 29⅞	3.5	54.9
335	46½	Biome Tech♦	76	...	...	-2.5
5⅛	1⅞	Byotrol♦	2¼	...	...	...
7¼	6¼	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
81⅜	50⅞	Coats Grp	67¼	+ ¾	2.1	15.0
10410	5908	**Croda**	6922	+ 128	1.3	30.1
1475	825	Cropper (James)♦	925	+ 15	...	28.2
146½	87⅝	Elementis	116⅛	+ ¼	...	...
36	13¾	Hardide♦	13¾	...	...	-2.6
2360	1721	Johnson Math	2087	– 2	3.3	26.3
1950½	1309	**Mondi**	1543	...	3.3	11.8
97½	75	Robinson♦	85	...	6.4	...
401¾	241¾	**Smith (DS)**	303¾	+ ½	3.9	17.2
642½	428⅞	Swire Pacific	641¼	+ 1½	2.4	...
26½	11¼	Symph Environ♦	11⅝	– ⅝	...	...
490⅛	88	Synthomer	131½	– 1½	13.1	2.7
2418⅝	1793½	Takeda Pharm	2418⅝	– 10⅛	4.7	13.5
9¼	4⅛	Velocys♦	4⅝	+ ⅛	...	-5.7
2486	1576	Victrex	1799	+ 23	3.3	21.4
651	500	Wynnstay Group♦	630	– 10	2.3	14.4
448	233	Zotefoams	312½	+ 7½	2.0	18.7

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
332⅛	86⅛	888 Hldgs	104⅝	+ 4⅛	10.5	7.7
900	542	Accesso Tech♦	808	+ 16	...	21.2
710	370	Best of the Best♦	420	...	1.1	4.6
1588⅛	501⅜	Carnival	725¾	+ 10	...	-1.1
140	97½	Celtic♦	114	...	...	11.2
53	1⅞	Cineworld	4½	...	...	-0.1
465⅛	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	290	+ 3¾	4.1	14.8
1826½	1075½	**Entain**	1403	+ 1	...	31.3
12040	7614	**Flutter Ent**	12040	– 135	...	...
36⅜	22	Gaming Realms♦	24	– ¼	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
200	140	Heavitree A♦	140	– 45	...	8.4
145	105	Hermes Pacific♦	145	...	...	...
5338	4193	**Intercont Htls**	4820	+ 23	...	45.1
1¼	⅞	Minoan Gp♦	1	...	...	-7.0
266¾	102	Mitch & Butlers	143⅞	+ 5	...	...
312	92½	On The Beach	124½	+ 7¾	...	-6.5
1600	1180	PPHE Hotels	1235	– 5	...	...
168	52⅜	Rank Grp	93½	+ 3	...	12.6
106⅜	28	Restaurant Gp	29¾	+ 1⅛	...	-5.6
35½	21½	Rotala♦	34	...	...	...
40	15½	Sportech♦	19¼	...	...	...
303⅛	184¾	SSP Group	210	– 2⅞	...	-4.0
6¼	3¼	Tasty♦	3¼	...	...	4.3
305	47½	Tintra♦	250	+ 15	...	-4.4
294⅛	105⅜	TUI	144⅝	– 2⅝	...	-1.5
4¾	1¼	Webis Holdings♦	1¼	...	...	...
973	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	445¾	+ 2⅜	...	-4.1
3243	2285	**Whitbread‡**	2606	+ 22	...	...
1660	870	Young & Co - A♦‡	1066	– 60	...	...
890	564	Young & Co - N/V♦‡	638	– 17	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
½	⅛	7digital Gp♦	¼	...	...	-2.9
87½	44½	Aeorema Comms♦	80	...	...	22.1
35	20½	Altitude Group♦	35	...	...	...
127½	72	Arcontech Grp♦	81	– 1½	3.4	11.2
448¾	176⅛	Ascential	227⅞	+ 11½	...	...
741¾	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	576¾	+ 11	0.8	28.4
492	328	Bloomsbury Pub‡	481½	– 3½	1.8	19.8
10⅜	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5¾	...	...	...
120	47½	Catalyst Media♦	119½	+ 2½	...	...
¾	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
1092	269	Daily Mail‡	270	– 2½	8.9	10.3
195	100	DCD Media♦#	100	– 30	...	5.0
71½	43	Ebiquity♦	43½	...	...	...
1466	829	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+ 2	0.7	...
3830	1145	Future	1486	+ 81	0.1	25.5
1425	930	GlobalData♦	1225	...	1.4	60.6
115	46¾	Hyve Group	63⅞	+ 3⅝	...	...
288½	46½	IG Design Grp♦	122	– 3½	7.1	17.8
624	464⅜	**Informa**	619⅜	+ 5⅛	...	...
123⅝	55⅛	ITV	74½	– ¼	...	8.0
12	7¼	Jaywing♦	8¼	– ½	...	...
12¼	2½	Live Company Gp♦	3⅛	...	...	-0.6
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-6.5
48½	34	Merit Grp♦	38	– 4½	...	...
74	30	Mirada♦	32½	+ 2½	...	-1.4
70	42	Mission Group♦‡	48	– 1	4.8	8.1
225½	167	Moneysupermarket	196⅝	+ 6⅞	5.9	20.0
1950½	1231⅜	News Corp A	1567⅛	+ 6	0.9	25.5
1973⅝	1257¾	News Corp B	1588¾	+ 3¼	0.9	25.9
1458	755	Next 15 Comms♦	1054	+ 6	0.6	...
987⅛	571¾	**Pearson**	943½	– 51½	2.1	45.1
107	56¼	Photo-Me	107	+ 5	...	18.6
4⅛	2⅛	Primorus Inv♦	3	+ ¼	...	5.5
175½	106½	Quarto	123½	+ 2½	...	6.8
285½	67	Reach	105½	– 4⅜	6.6	...
2⅛	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅛	...	...	16.4
2449	2071	**Relx**	2334	+ 22	2.0	30.7
800⅜	445⅜	**Rightmove**	562	+ 8½	0.8	31.8
155	87½	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	...	...	...
360	247	STV Group	258	– 5	3.7	6.2
467	140	System1 Group♦	140	– 5	...	6.7
3624¼	2320⅜	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2626⅞	– 18¼	1.3	14.4
3299	2188½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2481⅜	– 6½	1.4	13.6
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.6
318	205	Wilmington	288	+ 2	2.0	18.3
1224	725¾	**WPP**	873¾	+ 8⅛	3.0	16.6
123½	71	Zinc Media♦	87½	...	...	-5.5

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1⅜	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
5¼	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
53⅞	17¾	AFC Energy♦	21	– ⅛	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.2
1	⅜	Alien Metals♦	½	...	...	...
118¾	67¾	Alumina	87⅝	+ 3½	5.2	18.2
1¼	½	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
3⅞	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¼	...	...	...
1222387⅞	8070¾	Anglo Amer Plat	8070¾	+ 116	6.0	5.8
4170½	2547½	**Ang Am**	3301½	– 106	5.4	6.5
120½	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	83½	+ 2½	6.9	7.2
1781½	991½	**Antofagasta**	1405½	– 3	3.7	14.5
5¼	2¼	Arc Minerals♦	3⅛	...	...	2.3
4¾	2½	Ariana Res♦	3½	...	...	4.7
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	½	...	...	-1.6
5⅜	1⅜	Armadale Cap♦	1¾	...	...	...
2⅞	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1¼	...	...	...
448	188	Atalaya Mine♦	300	– 4	9.7	3.7
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	⅛	...	...	...
17½	3⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	4¼	...	...	...
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-1.7
3019	1962	BHP Group	2566	– 21½	...	11.2
6⅞	½	Border & Sthn Pet♦	1⅞	...	...	...
49⅝	14½	Bougainville	16⅝	...	...	...
4¾	1⅞	BowLeven♦	1⅞	...	...	-2.4
501¾	317⅝	**BP‡**	489⅜	– 8	3.2	17.7
30⅜	8¾	Cadence Min♦	9⅞	– ⅛	...	1.0
3½	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	2⅛	...	...	30.5
1250	825	Caledonia Mining♦	965	– 10	3.5	9.4
253¾	179¾	Capricorn Energy	252¾	+ 3⅜	...	2.0
5¼	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦‡	4	...	...	...
109¾	74⅜	Centamin	108½	+ 2⅞	4.7	16.8
284	200½	Cent Asia Metals♦	250½	+ 4	6.4	7.3
20⅜	9⅜	Chaarat Gold♦#	10⅞	...	...	...
23⅞	6⅝	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	18¾	– ⅛	...	...
10⅛	3⅛	China Nonferr Gold♦	3⅛	...	...	...
⅝	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.6
37	18½	Condor Gld♦	18½	+ ¾	...	...
2	¼	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
7837¾	54⅝	DRD Gold	54⅝	+ 4¾	6.9	6.4
1⅝	½	ECR Minerals♦	1	...	...	-6.2
25½	10¼	Edenville Energy♦	10½	...	...	-0.7
11¾	¾	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.7
2090	1461	**Endeavour Mining**	1756	+ 25	2.7	26.1
36½	17	EnQuest	24¼	...	...	1.5
28½	4¼	Eurasia Mining♦	4¼	...	...	...
3½	1	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1	...	...	9.7
323	97½	Ferrexpo	148⅜	+ 4¾	9.6	1.1
914¾	622⅜	**Fresnillo**	903⅛	+ 5½	2.7	21.3
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
41½	21	Galantas Gold♦	33½	+ ½	...	-5.7
8⅛	3¼	GCM Resources♦	5	...	...	-4.2
72⅞	28½	Gem Diamonds	33	...	5.5	3.4
34½	14¾	Getech♦	14¾	...	...	-3.5
556⅝	351⅞	**Glencore**	556⅝	– 6¾	1.5	20.3
⅞	¼	Global Petrol♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
123163⅜	920	Gold Fields	920	+ 47¼	2.8	14.1
12½	6⅝	Goldplat♦	12	...	...	9.1
12⅞	4⅞	Goldstone Res♦	4⅞	– ¼	...	...
16⅞	7¼	Greatld Gld♦	7½	...	...	...
120½	70	Griffin Mining♦	73	+ 2	...	8.0
310	168⅛	Gulf Keystone	211½	– 2½	3.9	13.2
530	298½	**Harbour Energy**	318⅜	...	...	37.1
23⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	21¼	– 1⅜	...	1.7
147⅛	51½	Hochschild	71¾	+ 2	4.3	6.9
173	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	125	+ 6½	...	...
18¼	5	Hummingbird Res♦	6¼	...	...	-7.0
356½	144⅜	Hunting PLC	271½	– 1	2.1	-6.9
106½	12¾	IGas Energy♦	20⅛	– 1¾	...	-1.0
½	⅛	Independ Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
317	214	Indus Gas♦	265	+ 5	...	27.4
1¼	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-3.9
461⅜	79⅞	ITM Power♦	104½	+ 1⅜	...	...
17½	10⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	11½	...	...	9.6
3¾	1¾	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.9
1¼	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	¾	...	...	-3.3
526	380½	Kenmare Res	435½	+ 3½	2.5	5.0
39½	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
30¾	11⅞	Landore Res♦	14¼	– ⅝	...	-3.2
⅝	⅜	Lansdowne O&G♦	½	...	...	...
21	14	Leeds Group♦	14	...	...	-2.2
6⅜	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	5	...	...	...
20½	2¼	MC Mining♦	14	+ ¾	...	-2.9
1⅝	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1⅛	...	...	2.0
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	¼	...	...	-1.5
9⅛	2	Nostrum O&G	2¼	...	...	...
235¼	212⅜	Oil Search	218⅞	– 5⅜	0.1	60.3
¼	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅜	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.1
1	½	Ormonde Mining♦	½	...	...	-2.5
17⅛	7¼	Orosur Mining♦	12¾	– ¼	...	...
24	16	Pan African Res♦‡	17½	– ⅛	4.7	5.7
149½	67¼	Pantheon Res♦	74¾	+ 1¾	...	...
79	34⅜	Parkmead Grp♦	61	...	...	-5.2
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-4.7
134	60½	Petra Diamonds	88½	– 4½	...	2.9
4	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.8
4¾	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	1⅞	...	...	-8.8
157⅞	81	Petrofac	81	– 2¾	...	-2.1
4⅜	¼	Petroneft Res♦	¼	...	...	-0.9
21¼	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	– ⅛	...	1.6
7½	3½	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
10	1¾	Plexus Holdings♦	2¼	...	...	-0.5
1372½	92	Polymetal Intl	240	+ 4	40.6	...
772	499	Porvair	546	...	0.9	21.0
11¾	2¾	Prospex Energy♦	11¼	+ ½	...	...
22	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	14	+ ⅜	...	-2.5
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1⅞	...	...	-7.6
40½	3½	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	+ ¼	...	0.1
⅜	...	Reabold Resources♦	¼	...	...	-4.6
⅝	¼	Red Rock Res♦	¼	...	...	-2.0
7129⅛	4894¾	Rio Tinto Ltd	6286⅜	+ 200⅜	7.9	6.5
6225	4486	**Rio Tinto**	5598	+ 13	8.9	5.8
41⅛	34	San Leon Energy♦	36	– 2¾	...	13.5
⅞	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...	...	...
75½	22½	Serabi Gold♦	29	+ 3	...	3.9
450	199½	Serica Energy♦	320½	+ 3½	1.0	...
12½	6¾	Shanta Gold♦	9⅜	...	1.0	5.9
2526½	1556⅛	**Shell‡**	2382	– 62	2.5	12.5
2⅞	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1	...	...	6.7
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	⅛	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-4.6
⅞	⅜	Thor Mining♦	⅜	...	...	-2.3
5100⅞	3467½	Total Eng SE	5100⅞	– 7¼	4.4	11.6
⅜	⅛	Tower Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-3.7
62⅛	36¾	Tullow Oil	43¾	...	...	4.3
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.1
460	135	URU Metals♦	175	– 45	...	5.6
2⅜	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅛	...	...	...
5½	2⅞	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
5⅞	2⅛	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
8⅛	2⅜	Westmount Engy♦	2⅜	+ ⅛	...	-0.5
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	132	+ 1½	...	-5.4
8	1⅞	Woodbois♦	1⅞	...	...	7.3
7	2	Xtract Resources♦	2	...	...	-3.7
7¾	4	Zephyr Energy♦	6	...	...	-7.7

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
4220	2240	4imprint Grp	4220	– 5	0.2	71.2
555	457	Andrews Sykes♦	480	...	4.8	15.3
6442	3359	**Ashtead**	5086	+ 111	0.8	24.7
39	5¼	Asimilar Group♦	6¾	...	...	0.3
170	58	AssetCo♦‡	65	...	...	0.4
50½	36	Avisen♦	49	+ 1½	...	...
148	100	Begbies Traynor♦	147½	+ 2½	2.0	...
...	...	Blancco Tech♦	172½	...	...	61.8
3163	2575	**Bunzl‡**	3046	– 2	1.7	23.1
48¾	20⅛	Capita	23¾	+ ⅛	...	1.8
51½	39½	CEPS♦	39½	...	...	-8.9
130	89	Christie Group♦	115	...	...	48.9
1969½	1453½	**Compass**	1866½	– 5½	0.7	45.4
387	97	CPPGroup♦	116½	+ 1½	25.7	...
92	53½	Croma Security♦‡	54	– 2½	3.7	7.7
6486	4329	**DCC‡**	4428	+ 39	3.6	14.6
160¾	73	De La Rue	78½	– 2⅞	...	10.3
3400	2158	Diploma	2920	+ 120	1.4	52.2
1060	597	Discoverie	840	+ 10	1.2	68.8
64	23½	Driver Group♦	26⅛	...	5.7	12.4
357	175⅛	Essentra	248½	+ 4½	2.1	27.9
3667	2285	**Experian**	2954	+ 49	1.1	37.9
13305	8680	Ferguson‡	9656	+ 294	1.8	14.2
250	210	FIH Group♦‡	241	+ 7	...	...
152	53½	Gattaca♦	72½	+ 1	2.0	...
6⅛	4⅛	Grafenia♦	5¼	...	...	-3.8
610	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	341	– 4	2.1	3.5
1194	608½	**Homeserve**	1190	– 1	2.1	...
655	413	Impellam Grp♦‡	602½	– 2½	...	32.9
45⅞	4	Ince G♦	6	...	...	3.4
5782	3619	**Intertek**	4093	+ 48	2.5	23.0
302	115⅜	IWG	164¾	+ 5⅜	...	-6.2
162	77	Johnson Srvce♦	96	+ 1	...	60.0
137½	99	Journeo♦	110½	...	...	24.7
119½	56½	Kier Gp	64	+ ⅝	...	6.2
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1250	– 45	1.7	6.8
1085	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	975	...	1.5	29.5
3850	2300	Lon Security♦	2600	+ 130	3.0	14.3
440	220	LSL Prop Services	238	+ 3	...	6.6
137	86	Macfarlane	102½	– 2½	2.6	11.8
385	185	Maintel Hldgs♦	190	...	...	5.8
3750	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	12	...	...	...
224	182	Mears Group	189½	...	1.3	16.4
608	255	Menzies (John)	607	– 1	...	48.0
79¾	46⅜	Mitie Gp	75⅜	– ⅝	...	37.7
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	9¾	– ½	...	7.2
...	...	Newmark Sec♦	33	...	...	-8.2
8	3¾	Norm Broadbent♦	3¾	...	...	-7.0
66½	44½	Northern Bear♦	47	...	...	4.8
286	193	NWF Grp♦‡	272	+ 6	2.6	...
678	362⅛	PageGroup	488⅛	+ 14⅜	0.9	13.1
73	47½	PCI-PAL♦	52½	...	...	...
13	8¼	Petards♦	9¾	...	...	17.7
26½	16½	PHSC♦	16½	– ½	6.0	30.0
4⅞	⅞	PowerHouse Egy♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.4
92	61	Record	92	+ 2	2.5	25.2
440½	283½	Redde Northgate	378	...	4.0	9.5
872	555	Renew Hldgs♦	683	...	1.9	16.8
851	489	Renewi	556	+ 3	...	11.7
635⅜	444½	**Rentokil Itl**	544⅛	+ 2¾	1.3	38.6
496	325	Restore♦	327	+ 4	0.7	38.9
485	331½	Ricardo	464	+ 13	1.4	41.4
862	440	Robert Walters	600	+ 18	2.7	13.7
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13	...	...	1.9
239	92	RPS Group	220	+ 1	0.1	...
1241	812	**RS Group‡**	947	+ 29	2.6	24.0
47½	18	RTC Group♦	18	...	...	...
654	264⅜	RWS Hldgs♦	334¾	+ 4	2.7	30.7
457	350	Science Group♦	380	– 5	1.0	17.5
188¼	121⅛	Serco Gp	172⅛	+ 1	1.2	7.0
42½	27½	Smiths News	40⅜	– ⅛	1.2	3.9
4168	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2977	+ 11	3.2	13.5
65⅞	36¼	Staffline Gp♦	40	...	...	30.7
557	317½	SThree‡	408	+ 2½	1.9	13.2
137½	90	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
34½	17¾	Thruvision Group♦	22¼	...	...	-8.1
106	46	Tribal♦	46	– 10	2.6	14.3
102½	49	Vianet♦	57½	+ ½	...	...
1010	660	Vp	695	+ 10	3.6	17.1
3⅞	1	Westminster♦	2¼	...	...	-2.7

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
110½	37⅞	AO World	59	– ½	...	...
644	295½	**B&M European‡**	415	+ 5¾	4.1	9.6
44	20¼	Brown (N)♦	23¾	– ¼	...	6.9
74⅜	40⅜	Card Factory	74¼	– ½	...	...
2315	1549	CVS Group♦‡	2078	+ 56	0.3	58.2
265	104¾	DFS Furn‡	153	– 3⅜	4.9	8.1
1434	670½	Dunelm‡	1007	+ 1	3.4	13.5
949½	562½	**Frasers Group**	895½	– 3	...	39.8
3416	1673	Greggs	2336	+ 20	0.6	20.4
370	124⅝	Halfords	197⅜	+ 2½	2.5	6.5
942⅛	480⅞	Howden Join	599⅛	+ 13¾	2.2	11.3
928	647	Inchcape	852	+ 21½	1.5	28.7
6¾	1⅝	IQ-AI	2⅛	...	...	-6.2
228¼	89⅛	**JD Sports**	128	+ 1⅞	0.2	15.4
356	203	**Kingfisher**	246½	+ 5⅜	4.8	6.1
101	56⅜	Lookers	81⅜	+ 1½	...	5.2
256⅞	93⅛	Marks Spencer	122½	+ 2	...	94.2
19⅝	6	Mothercare♦	7⅛	– ¼	...	-4.5
680	75½	Naked Wines♦	92⅝	+ 1⅞	...	...
8426	4383	**Next‡**	5814	– 26	...	11.1
1834	393	**Ocado Gp**	664¾	+ 42⅛	...	...
28¾	18½	Pendragon	28	...	...	8.7
478⅛	257¾	Pets at Home‡	265⅛	+ 1¾	3.0	10.8
320	72⅞	Saga	99⅜	+ 2¾	...	...
299	169⅞	**Sainsbury J‡**	222	– ½	4.7	18.6
1708½	1132½	Smith WH	1407	– 6	...	...
34¾	14¼	Sosandar♦	21	...	...	...
2¾	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
184	103	Studio Retail#	115	– 2½	...	2.4
156	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
303⅜	199⅛	**Tesco**	228⅝	+ 1⅛	4.0	11.6
68	38	Topps Tiles	42⅜	– 2⅜	...	7.6

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
155	87½	Access Intell♦	87½	...	...	...
161	81½	Aferian plc♦	91	...	3.2	16.3
205	137	Alfa Financial	162	+ ½	0.6	25.3
22½	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 3⅛	...	-1.2
589	290	Aptitude Software	360½	...	1.5	40.5
721	465	Avast	716½	– 3½	1.6	28.5
3415	1924	**Aveva Gp‡**	3186	+ 5	1.2	...
206½	126½	Bango♦	193½	...	...	...
84	25⅜	BATM Adv Coms	25⅜	– 1⅛	2.9	10.6
34	8¾	Berkeley Res	18⅝	...	...	-7.9
30¾	12¾	Blackbird♦	12¾	...	...	...
1¾	⅞	CloudCoCo Group♦	1⅛	...	...	-2.7
2978	1810	Computacenter	2044	+ 58	2.7	12.7
96	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	78½	...	3.2	18.6
14½	9¼	Corero♦	10½	– ¼	...	...
2590	1340	Craneware♦‡	2195	– 55	1.2	...
3	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2¼	...	...	15.0
26	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	12¾	– ½	...	...
357½	221	D4t4 Solutions♦	241½	– 1	1.1	28.6
⅞	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
24	13	Dillistone Group♦	15½	– ½	...	-4.5
1⅜	¼	EQTEC♦	¼	...	...	-3.6
1280	599	FDM Group	760	+ 29	5.6	26.3
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	12	...	...	32.4
2450	1230	First Derivts♦	1400	– 14	...	...
780	330	GB Group♦	341¾	+ 17½	1.8	26.0
183	136	GreshamTech	168½	– 1½	0.4	...
193½	30	Ilika♦	30	– ½	...	-8.5
132½	71½	Ingenta♦	132½	+ ½	1.1	77.4
85½	38	Intercede♦	51½	+ 2¼	...	17.7
200	113	Iomart♦	113	...	6.2	12.4
53	28⅛	IQE♦	53	+ 1⅛	...	...
179	115½	K3 Business Tch♦	127½	...	...	-2.1
2322⅞	1070¾	LG Electronics	1402⅛	+ 89⅝	...	3.7
½	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
527	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	522⅛	...	3.4	-5.5
80½	45	MTI Wireless♦	55	...	3.3	18.3
52⅜	17	Nanoco Gp	42	+ 2½	...	...
93½	52	Netcall♦	84½	– 1	0.4	...
69½	45	Northamber♦	45	– 1	2.2	...
58	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	17¼	+ ¼	...	-9.0
126½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	90½	...	1.9	39.3
9	6¼	Parity♦	6¼	...	...	-9.0
40	29	Pennant Intl♦	33	...	...	...
751	390¾	Playtech	562½	+ 12	...	5.9
394⅛	243	QinetiQ	348	+ ⅛	3.2	27.1
210	20½	RM	45¾	– ⅛	10.2	9.1
853¾	595½	**Sage Gp**	811½	+ 15	2.1	31.1
11½	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	6⅜	...	...	...
139	74	Shearwater Grp♦	100	+ 4½	...	61.9
85	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43	...	...	-4.5
1863	1084	Softcat‡	1306	+ 39	1.5	25.6
284	215⅜	Spirent Comms	284	+ 3	1.6	26.4
54	24¾	SRT Marine♦	45¾	+ 1	...	...
925¼	473½	Tele. Ericsson	528⅞	+ 16¼	3.4	9.6
86	70	Touchstar♦	85	+ 2½	...	...
1055	825	Tracsis♦	955	...	...	...
26	14½	Trakm8♦	14¾	...	...	...
165	102½	Triad Grp	102½	– 30	1.9	11.2
638	222½	Wandisco♦	637½	– 3½	...	...
1160	560	Water Intel♦	650	– 5	...	35.7
273	144½	Xaar	208	– 3½	...	...
13	2¼	Yourgene♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
185	96⅜	Zoo Digital♦	177	+ 4½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
226	102½	AdEPT Technology♦	117½	...	...	...
170⅞	107¾	**Airtel Africa‡**	123½	+ ⅛	2.6	11.0
200⅞	114	**BT Group**	120½	– ¾	...	11.7
135½	55½	Currys plc	76¼	– 1½	...	3.6
1750	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1096	...	1.1	19.8
175	100¼	Helios Towers	115¾	+ ⅝	...	...
5179	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1926¾	+ 62½	...	-4.1
½	⅛	Mobile Streams♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
2⅜	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
2500	1322	Telecom Plus‡	2500	+ 15	2.2	64.1
139½	91½	**Vodafone Gp‡**	91½	– ¼	8.4	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	201	Braemar Ship‡	324	...	1.5	10.7
727⅜	285	easyJet	387½	– 3½	...	-2.4
14⅜	4½	Esken Limited	6	+ ¼	...	-0.2
139½	88½	FirstGroup‡	104	+ 2	...	24.7
510	251	Fisher (James)	341	+ 3	...	-6.1
178¼	93⅝	**Intl Cons Air**	132⅞	– 1⅜	...	-2.9
526¾	183⅛	Int Distrib Serv	232¼	+ 3⅞	4.3	2.6
402½	262¼	Irish Cont Uts	378	– 11	...	...
1423	667¾	Jet2♦	1002½	– 5	...	-5.3
284⅛	161¼	Natl Express	172½	...	...	...
1050	820	Ocean Wilson	880	– 15	9.1	4.4
106⅛	68⅜	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24½	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	...	...	...
424	282	Wincanton‡	361	– 11	2.8	9.8
4867	1357½	Wizz Air Hldgs	2300	+ 78	...	-5.2

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
95½	64¾	**Centrica**	95½	+ ⅜	...	9.6
258	178	ContourGlobal	250½	+ ½	5.1	28.2
831½	473⅜	Drax Group	616½	+ 9	2.8	45.6
627½	484	Jersey Electricity	535	– 20	3.1	10.1
1245½	858⅜	**Natl Grid‡**	1025	+ 10½	4.8	23.8
13¼	5¾	OPG Power♦	6¾	...	...	4.3
1237	755	Pennon	938½	+ 22½	3.4	68.0
⅝	⅜	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3211	2213	**Severn Trent‡**	2717	+ 5	3.7	...
1920	1428	**SSE**	1740	+ 31½	4.6	6.8
1176½	828⅛	**Utd Utilities**	1046	+ 22	4.1	95.9

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

THE OFFICIAL NO-FLY MAIDEN SEASON LAUNCH PROMOTION

BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO SAIL ON BOARD

QUEEN ANNE



THIS HISTORIC MAIDEN SEASON WILL SELL FAST

BOOK WITH THE TOP PARTNER FOR CUNARD

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF CUNARD HISTORY

BOOK WITH JUST A DEPOSIT AND THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 2024

PRE-BOOK BY 8PM 5TH DECEMBER 2022 BEFORE FARES INCREASE

PAST CUNARD PASSENGERS SAVE 5%±

EXCLUSIVE PROMOTION ONLY AVAILABLE TO BOOK WITH READER OFFERS

As the top partner for Cunard and the UK's No.1 Independent Cruise Specialist we are delighted to present the launch of Cunard's newest ship, *Queen Anne*. Be a part of history as she is greeted in ports for the first time all over the world. Due to grace the seas in May 2024, Cunard's 249th addition to the fleet extends the Cunard Line for future generations. Designed with distinction, we invite you on board to discover a ship that is modern, yet timeless. Delight in the new experiences on board alongside renowned signature spaces from across the fleet. Many of Cunard's popular venues have been reimagined, whilst staying true to the much-loved hallmarks of Cunard. With over 25 years' experience, Reader Offers are proud to be the Top Ocean Cruise Agent for the UK and Ireland. From the moment you book with us, to the moment you arrive home, we look after your holiday as if it were our own, plus with payment plans available you can spread the cost so there's never been a better time to secure your holiday! **Demand will be exceptionally high for this launch promotion, so please do not delay as *Queen Anne's* maiden season will sell fast!**

Creating a new Golden Age of Ocean Travel

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE BRAND NEW *QUEEN ANNE*

Having been immersed in the Cunard archives, the designers have ensured that *Queen Anne* exudes classic Cunard style while showcasing many new considered touches. Feel inspired as you stroll through decks adorned in an impressive art collection or enjoy that special feeling as you descend into the Grand Lobby. Delight in Cunard's world-famous Afternoon Tea served in the exquisite Queens Room or decide to spend your days relaxing in more casual surroundings.

Panorama Pool Club



SOPHISTICATED DINING

Queen Anne will offer more choice than ever before in cuisine and dining styles, from the ultimate in fine dining experiences to casual meals, light bites, spontaneous indulgent treats, and Cunard's signature Afternoon Tea. In addition to their much-loved restaurants from across the fleet, *Queen Anne* debuts a number of exciting new options. Cunard are also introducing a new Britannia Restaurant dining experience where guests can choose to reserve a table at any time of the evening alongside the more traditional early and late seating options.

Grand Suite



WORLD CLASS ACCOMMODATION

With luxurious flourishes enhanced by stylish décor, every day on *Queen Anne* offers a chance to sail the world in unparalleled comfort. From a welcome drink to help ease you into your voyage, to sumptuous cotton sheets, soft bathrobes, and a nightly turndown service, you'll find signature touches in each suite or stateroom ready to usher you into a world of indulgence and unadulterated relaxation.

WHY PRE-BOOK TODAY WITH READER OFFERS LTD

RECEIVE THE VERY BEST DEAL

Pre-booking allows you to book before the sailing goes on general sale. This ensures you benefit from the very best deal, which is likely to include a lot more promotional benefits than booking at a later date.

PICK YOUR PREFERRED STATEROOM OR SUITE

Pre-booking enables you to secure your preferred stateroom or suite before anyone else, ensuring you are in the exact location you desire.

BOOK BEFORE FARES INCREASE

Once this voyage goes on sale, fares will increase, so the benefit of securing your preferred cabin early, means you'll enjoy the best fare possible!

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH PROMOTION

- **PLEASE DO NOT DELAY - PRE-BOOK BY 8PM 5TH DECEMBER 2022 BEFORE FARES INCREASE**
- **UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THIS HISTORIC MAIDEN SEASON**
- **COMPLIMENTARY** Commemorative Champagne Gift in celebration of *Queen Anne's* launch - only when booking with Reader Offers Ltd+
- 19 nights full board no-fly cruising on board the brand new *Queen Anne* during her maiden season including:
  - **COMPLIMENTARY** on board spending money of up to **$690***
  - **OR COMPLIMENTARY** car parking# **OR** coach transfers
  - White Star fine dining, bars and lounges
  - Lavish theatre productions, concerts and recitals
  - A variety of Cunard lectures and workshops, West-End style shows, live music and RADA performers
  - 24-hour room service

EXCLUSIVE DOUBLE CRUISE MILES®
Earn up to **85,996** Cruise Miles®, worth **£859** off your next booking, only when you book with Reader Offers Ltd††

PAST PASSENGERS SAVE 5% OFF THE ADVERTISED FARES±

YOUR NO-FLY MAIDEN GRAND MEDITERRANEAN & ADRIATIC EXPLORATION
19 NIGHTS DEPARTING 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun 22	**Embark the brand new *Queen Anne* and depart Southampton**
Wed 25	**Cádiz, Spain**
Sun 29	**Dubrovnik, Croatia**
Mon 30	**Zadar, Croatia**

OCTOBER 2024

Tue 1	**Trieste, Italy**
Wed 2	**Sibenik, Croatia**
Fri 4	***Cruising Messina Strait, Italy***
Sat 5	**Cagliari, Italy**
Tue 8	**Lisbon, Portugal**
Fri 11	**Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

Dubrovnik, Croatia



YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH FARES

STATEROOM/SUITE	LAUNCH FARE FROM (PP)
BRITANNIA RESTAURANT	
Inside	£2,299
Oceanview	£2,599
Balcony†	£3,599
Club Balcony	£4,999
PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL	
Princess Grill Suite	£7,699
Queens Grill Suite	£9,399
Penthouse Suite	£10,799
Grand Suite	£21,499

Solo fares are available from only **£3,449**

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO BOOK, THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 2024

BOOK WITH THE NO-FLY CRUISE EXPERTS, READER OFFERS LTD

Still deciding… then read more about why your next holiday should be a no-fly cruise by visiting www.rolcruise.co.uk/noflyexperts

www.rolcruise.co.uk

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE — Agent to ATOL Holder Cunard Lines 6294 — ABTA — ABTA No F9255

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON **0808 239 1923**

QUOTE OFFER REF **629741**

OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM – 8PM

Platinum Trusted Service Award — For consistently delivering excellence — 2022 feefo

ROL CRUISE

Please note, first day on sale for past passengers is 1pm 5th December 2022 and first day on general sale 1pm 6th December 2022. Advertised voyage is Queen Anne's maiden season not her inaugural sailing. Fares are per person based on two adults sharing, except single staterooms, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Some ports may require a tender. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing. Members of the Cunard World Club will benefit from a 5% discount on the advertised fares. This 5% Cunard World Club discount is applicable on all cruises, for past guests only. To receive past passenger benefits you will need to have your past passenger numbers to hand at the time of booking and further terms and conditions apply. *On board spend is per stateroom/suite. #Based on one space for the duration of the cruise. +Commemorative Champagne Gift is based on one per booking and for UK mainland addresses only. †Denotes obstructed view. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. Cunard T&Cs apply. E&OE



TV producer acclaimed for Brideshead Revisited
Derek Granger
Page 60

Register

Obituaries

Major Sir Michael Parker

Pageant master extraordinaire, pyromaniac and ‘accidental showman’ who was frequently obliged to apologise to the Queen

TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES





Parker at Buckingham Palace for the Golden Jubilee, and with the Queen on her Silver Jubilee in 1977, top right and below

Queen Elizabeth II’s Silver Jubilee was not Michael Parker’s finest hour. The plan was to have a nationwide chain of 150 beacons, with the first, in Windsor Great Park, being lit by the Queen. It was 60ft high and so vast it had empty spaces inside it, into which Parker had stuffed all manner of pyrotechnics to make sure it lit in spectacular fashion. A Royal Signals major was on hand to press a detonator, once the Queen had ceremonially lit the “fuse” that would, live on television, wend its fizzing way along the ground towards the beacon.

Parker had not anticipated that a 20,000-strong crowd would turn up to watch. The throng was so great, the Queen’s route to the beacon was blocked for an hour, by which time the Olympic torch that a boy scout was supposed to hand to the Queen had gone out — and he had started crying. The torch was hastily refuelled, but when the Queen lowered it to the fuse, the waiting major prematurely pressed the button and the bonfire, 60 yards away, burst into flames.

The Queen watched the fuse meander towards the already burning beacon, turned to Parker, and said: “Can’t think why you bothered to ask me.”

“At that stage,” Parker recalled in his drawling, officer’s voice, “I had to say ‘Your Majesty, everything that could possibly go wrong is going wrong’ and then she smiled, turned to me and said ‘Oh good, what fun’.”

Parker, who produced pageants and performances for royalty and the nation for almost half a century, would delight in telling such stories of mishap and mayhem. Indeed he titled his memoir *It’s All Going Terribly Wrong: The Accidental Showman*. In them he described the 320 epic events he produced over his career, with casts of thousands, including 26 Royal Tournaments, the Queen Mother’s 100th birthday, and the VE and VJ Day celebrations. In the foreword, Sir Cameron Mackintosh wrote: “America may have given us PT Barnum and Florenz Ziegfeld, but Michael Parker in full military flood makes Andrew Lloyd Webber and me feel like wallflowers.”

When celebrating the wedding of the Prince of Wales with fireworks in Hyde Park in 1981, the King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery drove their guns over the control cables, breaking many, so the pyrotechnics exploded in random order. This was probably the first occasion when a journalist reported that Parker had to say “sorry” to the Queen.

Although he would characterise himself as “the man most frequently obliged to apologise to the Queen”, he was such a perfectionist that, most of the time, the odds were that only the monarch and he had noticed whatever misadventure had marred the occasion. No matter the splendour of the audience or the scale of the event, nothing appeared to daunt him; he would just murmur: “If it’s not difficult, it’s not worth doing.”

No martyr to shyness, Parker’s theatrical flair first came to notice when, as a subaltern in the Queen’s Own Hussars, he staged a Samuel Beckett play in a disused aircraft hanger in Detmold, Germany. The sets he designed were so elaborate they could not possibly have withstood handling by military scene shifters. He overcame this difficulty by constructing a circular stage in four segments and, as rotation was out of the question on such a primitive site, the audience moved their chairs round to greet each act in turn.

Occasions on stage quickly became too small for his burgeoning imagination and gave no scope for the favourite features of his repertoire — fire and pyrotechnics. He was soon in great demand and an early high point was a portrayal of the destruction of the Spanish Armada, at midnight, on a small lake in the garden of an officers’ mess in Germany. The night sky was lit for miles around and the high and would-be mighty of the British Army of the Rhine greatly enjoyed it. Dawn revealed that not all had gone exactly to plan. Most of the small canvas assault craft used as hulls for the men o’ war had burnt to the waterline.

‘Your Majesty, everything that could possibly go wrong is going wrong’

Regimental funds were hastily tapped to provide replacements in case a crossing of the Weser, in either direction, might be required.

Parker nevertheless went on to produce the Berlin Military Tattoo several times and he remained associated with the event until the last one in 1992. His success there led to his becoming producer of the Royal Tournament from 1974 until the final performance in 1999 and of many other events, at home and abroad, that called for his talent for organising large numbers of people to do something to which they were completely unaccustomed in a short time.

When confronted by an implacably difficult personality he would say: “All right, we’ll compromise, we’ll do it my way.” Somehow, this formula always worked. How else could a hundred sailors be persuaded to don straw hats and dance the hornpipe at the Royal Tournament, or for that matter a bagpipe player do a “death slide” from 100ft?

Never reluctant to share his views, Parker was critical of the Household Division for staging events on Horse Guards Parade, as he put it, “the wrong way round” with the sovereign appearing for her birthday parade from the back. He argued that the white façade of Horse Guards provided the perfect background and — with their backs to it — the Guards would face Her Majesty to greet her with a royal salute.



Although unsuccessful over the Queen’s birthday parade, he realised his dream to mark the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother in 2000 — and proved his point even if the pageant did come close to chaos when camels, seeing sand that had been laid down for them to walk over on Birdcage Walk, chose to lie down on it instead. The elephant Parker was riding, meanwhile, reared up when the Red Arrows flew overhead. “When they did their whoosh past, Maureen my elephant said ‘f*** this’ and went up on her hind legs,” he recalled. “I only just managed to cling on.”

When Her Majesty’s much trumpeted giant birthday cake failed to inflate, at the very last moment, Parker’s decision to allow the child performers to go ahead — without the cake — demonstrated his true flair. The children rose to the occasion with artistic passion, producing the cake in the imagination of the audience.

His mission, he declared, was always to “ginger up” events that would otherwise be “dreary”, even if that meant they ended up “a complete Horlicks”. That might include massed harps, the recreation of the siege of Moscow (involving walls of flame, of course), and commemorating St Patrick’s Day at the Irish Guards barracks by hiring snakes which duly escaped — as did a tarantula he had hired for another military event, leading to soldiers running around in panic.

Michael John Parker was the son of Vera Wilkins (née Parker) and Sydney Wilkins, an army captain. His home life was “miserable” and he changed his name to Parker by deed poll after his parents’ separation. He was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and RMA Sandhurst, from where he was commissioned into the Queen’s Own Hussars in 1961. “The army became my first real family,” he reflected. His affection for military life never faltered, for his regiment in particular, but he was unable to resist the less serious side. One of his publications was *The Awful Troop Leaders’ Gunnery Crib*.

After leaving the regular army in 1971 — explaining that he had no ambition to become a general “because they are all old and smelly” — he continued on attachment to his regiment in the Territorial Army. Appointed MBE in 1968, CVO in 1991 and CBE five years later, he was advanced to KCVO following his production of the Royal Military Tattoo and the Queen Mother’s birthday pageant in 2000.

He was a perfectionist at home as well as in his work. A bon viveur and an accomplished cook, his guests knew to expect fine food and wine. His idealist approach to interior decorating and gardening led to his designing and painting his own wallpaper, and allowing in his garden only blue and yellow flowers — the regimental colours of the Queen’s Own Hussars.

Untroubled by self-doubt, he described himself as a “pyromaniac”, and seemed to be at his happiest when carrying a jerry can full of kerosene. “Controlled fire is very exciting,” he would say.

His most ambitious plan, to turn the Thames into a “river of fire” to mark the millennium, was, however, thwarted. “I had planned to use 28 barges; in the end they used eight or nine, and turned it into a river of splodges.”

He produced his shows without an office or production company while simultaneously running a profitable antiques business with his aunt Maggie.

For a long time, much as he enjoyed the company of women, he remained “too busy to marry”, working into the night, painting sets and inventing wild stunts involving fireworks because “I just love blowing things up”.

He eventually did marry in 2005. Emma Gilroy had been his long-serving PA, the two having met at an event at the Royal Albert Hall in 1991. She had a son from a previous marriage — Oliver, who works in the theatre — and Parker became a devoted stepfather to him. When asked what living with such a force of nature was like, Lady Parker replied: “No two days were the same.”

Fairly predictably, Parker had made plans for his own memorial service, with plenty of military music and some of his trademark special effects.

The order of service may well include some of his “rules of life” such as “Better to fail in originality than succeed in imitation”, “Try not to tell people what is supposed to happen, then they won’t know when it hasn’t” and “Stand as close as you can to the principal guests, so you can be first in with your excuse when things go wrong”.

Major Sir Michael Parker KCVO, CBE, producer of royal and national spectaculars, was born on September 21, 1941. He died from a heart condition on November 28, 2022, aged 81

Register

Derek Granger

Impish producer who surmounted huge challenges to make a critically acclaimed television adaptation of Brideshead Revisited

Derek Granger was so traumatised by working with Laurence Olivier in 1976 that he declared, "I can't work with the old f***er any more."

So it was not without trepidation that the producer reunited with arguably Britain's greatest actor for a television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. However, not only did Granger elicit a performance of power and subtlety from Olivier as the dying Lord Marchmain reconciling to his Catholic faith on his deathbed, but it also helped that as the production soared over budget Olivier's brother-in-law, David Plowright, was Granada's director of programmes.

Asking Plowright years later how he got away with producing the sumptuous and critically acclaimed miniseries for double the original budget, Granger was told: "Oh, we rather liked what you were doing and we just thought you ought to get on with it.' "

As a young man in 1945 Granger had fallen in love with the elegiac but ultimately redeeming story of Charles Ryder's involvement with the aristocratic Marchmain family between the wars, first through the "Arcadia" of his boyish love for the dipsomaniac Lord Sebastian Flyte and later through his affair with Sebastian's sister Lady Julia. On being given the reins to produce the miniseries in 1978, Granger was determined "to be true to Waugh" but the project soon started to unravel.

After a five-year negotiation, Waugh's estate agreed to the adaptation if it could choose the scriptwriter. After Alan Bennett said no, they nominated John Mortimer. Granger, who could be prickly and was known for his feuds, disliked his script. "John was very well known and much in demand," he recalled. "He was rather grand, perfectly nice but rather difficult to have a collaborative conversation with. He delivered something which was perfectly competent, but we wanted something much more delicate, more reflective of the beauty and nostalgia of the book."

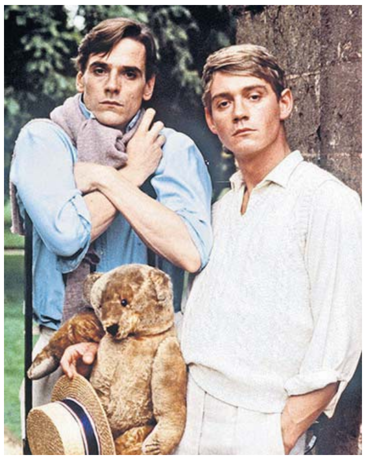
Granger reinserted Ryder's narration of the story, offering his reflections, by turns nostalgic and melancholic, as the action unfolds. Jeremy Irons's sonorous voice would ensure that the device worked perfectly. When Mortimer found out, he was furious. "He demanded that he see the whole version of what I'd written," Granger recalled. "He saw it and not a word did I hear back. Who got the royalties? He did."

Then shooting stopped for four months in 1979 owing to a strike at ITV, which led to the director, Michael Lindsay-Hogg, resigning because he had

FAIRFAX MEDIA ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES



Granger in 1982, the year after Brideshead Revisited was televised starring Jeremy Irons, above left, as Charles Ryder, and Anthony Andrews as Sebastian



another commitment. Granger recruited a young protégé of his called Charles Sturridge, a relatively untried director in his late twenties. Granada tried to block Sturridge, but Granger had a hunch that his background, educated by Jesuits at the Catholic boarding school Stonyhurst and then Oxford, was the greatest qualification to direct a story whose ineffable supernatural themes could be lost in less sensitive hands. "He turned out to be incredible," Granger said.

A short man with slightly dandyish attire, an impish smile and prodigious energy, Granger had a beady determination to ensure that every item of cost would show up in every scene shot on location at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, Hertford College, Oxford (Waugh's alma mater), Venice, the Maltese island of Gozo, and on the QE2.

Conceived as a six-hour miniseries, it took three years to make. The final cut was 11 hours long, costing £10 million. It would win seven Baftas and 25 international awards, and attract weekly audiences of some 12 million.

"It was highly experimental for the day because nothing like it of that scale had ever been done on film, except *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, which was the year before, but with nothing like the production values," Granger said. "There we were with foreign locations, hunting scenes, scenes on Atlantic liners, very grand houses."

Above all, it gave him pleasure to have done Waugh proud, having interviewed him as a young journalist. Waugh had a reputation for waspishness, but the young Granger, perhaps sensing a kindred spirit, treasured his parting shot: "Ours is an exacting trade, Mr Granger, is it not?"

Derek Harold Granger was born in Bramhall, Cheshire, in 1921 to Thomas Granger and Bertha Winifred (née Ashcroft). He grew up in Eastbourne, when his father, wounded at Gallipoli in 1917 and coming south for his health, bought a chain of shops on the coast.

Derek was educated at Eastbourne College and during the war served in the cruiser HMS Cairo in North Atlantic convoys, rising from ordinary seaman to lieutenant.

He became a journalist after the war, landing the job of theatre critic at the Brighton Evening Argus. Plays would often start their runs in Brighton before transferring to the West End. Olivier enjoyed Granger's write-ups and recommended him to Lord Drogheda, managing director of the Financial Times, who was looking to appoint the paper's first theatre critic in 1952. Granger later became the paper's film critic,

As a young man he had met Waugh and found him a kindred spirit

but admitted to feeling "bored stiff" and was desperate to break into television.

Sidney Bernstein recruited him to his recently formed Granada Television in 1958. Within a year Granger was head of drama. He was the second producer of *Coronation Street* in 1961, brought in to "soup up" the scripts.

"I started to give Elsie Tanner lovers. When Dennis [her son] came down for breakfast, he would find the remnants of gentlemen callers like naval caps on the kitchen table." Granger described Tanner as "the best character since Anna Karenina". Stories would be developed over several episodes, with Granger delighting in reworking plotlines from Shakespeare, Dostoevsky and Dickens.

As executive producer of *World in Action*, Granger introduced more social themes. For example, in 1963 he helped to launch *Seven Up!*, an acclaimed documentary about the aspirations of seven-year-old children, with the aim of returning to them every seven years.

In 1967 he left Granada to become a founding member of London Weekend Television. The company was soon in financial trouble and when the managing director, Michael Peacock, was fired in 1969, Granger resigned as head of plays in protest, along with Frank Muir and Humphrey Burton.

Olivier came to his rescue and hired him as literary consultant at the National Theatre, where Granger worked with Kenneth Tynan, a fellow former theatre critic. Frustrated at being unable to influence things and disliking Tynan, he rejoined Granada in 1971 and a year later made *Country Matters*, dreamt up by Granger from the short stories of HE Bates and AE Coppard. One of the first drama series to be shot entirely on film, it was described by Sir Hugh Greene, the former director-general of the BBC, as a series of "outstanding merit and beauty".

In 1976, he co-produced with Olivier a season of classic plays, *Laurence Olivier Presents. The Collection*, by Harold Pinter and starring Olivier, Alan Bates and Helen Mirren, would win an Emmy. Granger spent several weeks at Olivier's malt house in East Sussex to choose the plays. "I got enormously fond of him," Granger said of the actor. "He was companionable and funny, but he could be ferocious." He was later told by John Mills, among others, that Olivier found it difficult to cede authority because he had to be the "kingpin".

Granger left Granada in 1984 and became an executive producer of Goldcrest Films. A great cat lover, for 66 years he lived with Kenneth Partridge, an interior designer who had worked on homes for John Lennon and Ringo Starr. They eventually married. Partridge died in 2015.

One of his final screen projects in 1991 was to produce a film adaptation of EM Forster's *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. Forster had been one of his favourite writers as a young man. "When I first read him, the liveliness, intelligence and sympathy was quite new to my understanding, outside of anything in my family or upbringing."

Granger always regretted that when he spotted Forster at a gallery in Lewes, East Sussex, during the war, he did not have the courage to speak to him. "I went there as a sailor and was too shy to present myself. When I mentioned it afterwards, the two old ladies who ran the gallery said, 'There's nothing he'd have loved more than a young sailor coming up to him!' "

Derek Granger, film and television producer, was born on April 23, 1921. He died on November 29, 2022, aged 101

Lives remembered

Ian Jack



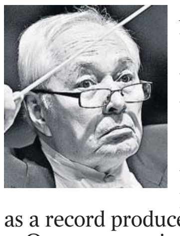
Anthony Quinn writes: As well as a brilliant and painstaking writer, Ian Jack (obituary, November 10) was a self-confessed elegist. "I spend too much time in 1890," he emailed me last year. I said I had the same problem. He happened to come to dinner at our house that week, and when I presented a hardback of his 1987 book *Before the Oil Ran Out* to sign I asked him, teasing, to make the dedication "lapidary". That flustered him completely and the page was soon scored with crossings-out and insertions — like the editor he was. It must have bugged him, because the next day he turned up on our doorstep with a fresh copy of the book, newly dedicated: "To Tony from Ian — 'Friends in three centuries' October 2021." We laughed, but the gesture typified his thoughtfulness, his humility and his passion for saying it right.

Dame Clare Marx



Dr Fiona Cornish, past president of the Medical Women's Federation (MWF), writes: Dame Clare Marx (obituary, November 30) epitomised the role model of a successful female doctor, in the days when women had to excel to compete with their male peers. She achieved success on merit alone, and by doing so, encouraged many female doctors to aspire to leadership positions. She was also a keen supporter of the Medical Women's Federation, founded in 1917, but still relevant.

Libor Pesek



Andrew Keener writes: Libor Pesek (obituary, November 1) was among the most generous and collegial of the conductors with whom I have been privileged to work as a record producer.

On one occasion in the late 1980s with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, of which he was then principal conductor, we were recording the music of his native Czechoslovakia, and during a session break I cautiously asked him what Czech musicians thought of the Australian Sir Charles Mackerras, who also achieved great distinction as conductor of this repertoire. The answer came with a sincere, direct gaze: "In Prague they rightly — consider Charles to be Janacek on Earth."

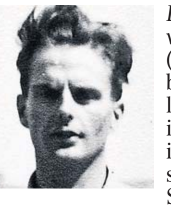
David English



Don Gillett writes: My great friend Harry Stillman, who was seriously overweight and a cricketing buff, arranged for David English (obituary, November 14) to give an after-dinner talk.

His opening remarks were: "Harry's perfect woman is one who makes love all night and in the morning wakes up as a bacon sandwich."

John Udal



Brendon Sewill writes: John Udal (obituary, November 30) was certainly a man of unbending principle, learnt in the Sudan civil service. When Ian Smith declared unilateral independence for Southern Rhodesia in 1965 to maintain white majority rule, there were many rightwingers who pressed the British government to send troops to support him. John, however, resigned from his post in the Conservative Research Department (of which I was director at that time) for the opposite reason: because the Conservative opposition was not pressing for troops to be sent in to depose Smith.

Email: tributes@thetimes.co.uk

Clarence Gilyard

Actor who hoped to be a fighter pilot before landing roles in Top Gun and Die Hard, and later turned his hand to teaching

As a boy growing up watching TV westerns, Clarence Gilyard dreamt of becoming a cowboy. His favourite programmes included *Wagon Train*, *The Virginian* and *Rawhide*, although he had no desire to be an actor playing a cowboy. He aspired to become the real thing.

Despite a dearth of black role models, in the end he became both. He wore a cowboy hat on screen when he starred with Chuck Norris as a hard-fighting law enforcer imposing the code of the old West on the modern world in the hit TV crime series *Walker, Texas Ranger*. It ran for eight years on American television in the 1990s and was syndicated in more than 100 countries around the world.

In real life he also became a skilled horse rider whose passion was team-roping cattle at rodeos. "I love it out there, up to my butt in horses, calves, dirt and dung," he said.

With his muscular physique, he had an eye-catching part in *Top Gun* (1986) as Lieutenant Marcus "Sundown" Williams, flying in the fighter jet piloted by Tom Cruise. Equally memorable was *Die Hard* (1988) in which he went up against Bruce Willis, playing the terrorist computer expert Theo and delivering such lines as "you didn't bring me along for my charming personality" with a gleeful menace.

Yet in 2001 after playing Ranger Jimmy Trivette in 196 episodes of *Walker, Texas Ranger*, he walked away from his career in his late forties to devote himself to academia, to his family and to God.

"I decided not to go back to Hollywood and put my family through all that entails," he said. "I wanted to start over." Instead he returned to college and obtained a master's degree in acting from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"I'm about twice the age of my fellow students and really have to work hard to keep up with them," he said at the time. "But I did it for myself. I believe that the only way you can really change your life is to get new information." On graduating he became an associate professor, teaching acting at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Brought up as a Lutheran, he also converted to Catholicism in the 1990s and became a consultant on the communications committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

His conversion came after a messy divorce from his first wife, Catherine Dutko, who left him, taking their two children with her, after he admitted to an affair. "I was hot as far as television was concerned. But I didn't have my two babies. I didn't have my wife and she was filing for divorce. It brought me to my knees and I had to think on all aspects of my life," he said.

"Someone took me to Mass, and I looked anew at life. I felt at home immediately — on our knees in the presence of Jesus, that's where I needed to be."

He attended Mass almost every day for the rest of his life and travelled to Rome where he had an audience with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican. He also played a pastor in the *Left Behind* film series, a role that he said God had ordered him to take.

He is survived by his second wife, Elena Castillo, whom he married in 2001, and by their son Peter, 15, and two younger children, and by two children from his first marriage.

Clarence Darnell Gilyard Jr was born on Christmas Eve 1955 in Moses Lake, Washington, the second of six children to Barbara (née Ballard) and Clarence Gilyard Sr. His father was an airman in the US military and he grew up as "an air-force brat". By the time he left home he calculated that his childhood had been spent on 15 different military bases all over the US, from Texas to Hawaii.

On leaving school he entered the US Air Force Academy hoping to become a fighter pilot, but left after a year. His role in *Top Gun* was the closest he ever came to flying.

He transferred to Sterling College, Kansas, where he made the football team and played tennis but dropped out after his first year due to lack of funds. He returned to his parents, who had in retirement settled in California, until they threw him out. "I was a prodigal, and not learning a lot of healthy habits, doing a little drugs, drinking a lot, chasing women," he admitted.

He moved to Long Beach where he worked in a clothing store and in a restaurant, and attended California State University, where he neglected his studies in favour of partying. His introduction to acting came entirely by accident.

"One afternoon, one of the girls in the restaurant said she was going to Hollywood to audition for a children's theatre programme," he recalled. The audition was for a production of *Aesop's Fables* and he went with her and got the part of Aesop. When more roles followed he switched to a theatre course at CSU.

He was soon picking up minor TV parts, including appearing with Jim Carrey in the 1984 sitcom *The Duck Factory*, and his film roles in *Top Gun* and *Die Hard* followed.

However, it was not until 1989 that he became a household name. Andy Griffith, a childhood hero on whose shows Gilyard had grown up, cast him as his sidekick in the long-running TV crime drama *Matlock*.

Gilyard played Conrad McMasters, the private-eye companion to Griffith's defence lawyer Ben Matlock, and the older man became his mentor, friend and a surrogate father figure. "Andy could have chosen any one of a thousand guys to be his partner for four seasons and he chose me. I stuck to him like glue during the four years we worked together and he taught me so much," he said.

While continuing to teach he eventually returned to acting, mostly in small parts in independent productions. "As an actor I had a quality that producers were looking for but I wasn't controlling my destiny," he said. "My true purpose in life is to strive to be the best Christian I can be."

Clarence Gilyard, actor and teacher, was born on December 24, 1955. He died after a long illness on November 28, 2022, aged 66

CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



Gilyard, right, as "Sundown" in Top Gun, with Adrian Pasdar, 1986

TIMES RADIO

Join us for breakfast
Listen to Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell on Times Radio, Monday to Thursday at 6am



Politics with no boring bits
Listen to Matt Chorley on Times Radio, Monday to Friday at 10am

Births, Marriages and Deaths

newsukadvertising.co.uk ● 020 7782 7553

BUT you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5.2 (NRSV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Forthcoming Marriages

MR H. BROWN AND MISS V. ALLNER
The engagement is announced between Hugo, son of Mr and Mrs Rory Brown of Teffont, Wiltshire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Allner of Woodrow, Buckinghamshire.

MISS C. A. B. DAVIE AND MR F. H. CANETTY-CLARKE
The engagement is announced between Charlie, eldest daughter of Davina and Michael Davie of Weybridge, Surrey, and Felix, son of Anna and Neil Canetty-Clarke of Etchingham, East Sussex.

MR J. M. CARRINGTON AND MISS E. V. L. DYKE
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs G. Stapleton, and Emily, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. B. Woodford and Mr A. M. Dyke (deceased). On Tuesday 22nd November 2022 in Paris, France.

MR D. S. MARCHINI AND MISS G. I. HARWOOD
The engagement is announced between Damon, son of Mr and Mrs Oscar and Jane Marchini, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Len and Frances Harwood.

MR F. N. LYKIARDOPULO AND MISS R. J. MULLER
The engagement is announced between Fotis, son of Nicholas Lykiardopulo of Zurich, Switzerland, and Sally Lykiardopulo of Chelsea, London, and Rebecca, daughter of Colin and Rachael Muller of Prestbury, Cheshire.

MISS N. J. MARTIN AND MR B. T. STAFFORD
The engagement is announced between Natalie, daughter of Christopher and Joanne Martin of Lower Woodend, Marlow, and Benjamin, son of Andrew and Catherine Stafford of Esher.

Marriages

MR D. L. PETRIDES AND MISS V. L. YEE
The marriage took place on 13th August 2022, at Jesus College, Cambridge, between Daniel and Victoria.

Deaths

BUTLER-SLOSS Joseph William Alexander died peacefully on 22nd November 2022, aged 96. Younger son of Francis Sloss of Bangor, Co Down. Private funeral. Memorial service on 17th January 2023 in the Temple Church at 6pm.

DOUGLAS-MENZIES Phyllis Rosemary (née Keith) died peacefully at home on 25th November. Dearly loved wife of the late Jimmy. Service of thanksgiving at St Michael and All Angels, Warden NE46 4SW, at 11.30am on Tuesday 13th December.

FAIRWEATHER James (Gullane, East Lothian). Jamie died peacefully at home on Wednesday 23rd November 2022, aged 61. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend. A fathomless loss.

DAME CLARE MARX CBE, DL (MRS ANDREW FANE)
Clare died peacefully on 27th November 2022 at home surrounded by family.

There will be no funeral as Clare had donated her body to medical research. In the spring there will be a service of celebration of her life in Woodbridge, date to be announced.

No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

FRIEND Flavia (née Hinchliffe) died peacefully on 21st November 2022, aged 93. Wife of the late Irvine (Bobby), much-loved mother of Sarah, Jamie, Ed, Will and Katie, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service of thanksgiving to be held at St Mary's Church, Mucklestone, on Monday 19th December at 2.30pm. Inquiries to J R Williams Funeral Director. Tel: 01630 654490.

GRAHAM Jeremy Andrew Ogilvie died peacefully on 22nd November 2022, aged 60, surrounded by his family and dogs who loved him beyond measure. There will be a private family funeral shortly, with details of the memorial service to follow in the new year. Donations to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity welcomed.

MARR Anne Valerie (née Stevenson) (Longforgan by Dundee) on Sunday 20th November 2022, peacefully, with her family by her side. Beloved wife of the late William Donald, much-loved and loving mother of Andrew, Lucy, Katie and Sally, also a dear grandmother. A private family committal will be held. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Longforgan Parish Church on Thursday 15th December at 2pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, please.

MOLLER David died peacefully at home, aged 85, on 17th November 2022. Much-loved husband of Patricia and father of Christina. Thanksgiving Service at 1pm on Monday 19th December 2022 at United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate N6 6BA. Private cremation. Donations in memory of David can be made to North London Hospice.

MOTTRAM Allan Hugh died peacefully on 28th November 2022, aged 73, after a short illness in Saintes, France. Much-loved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Former headmaster of CCCS Oxford, former lay clerk at Winchester Cathedral. Funeral will take place in France, a memorial will be held in the UK. No flowers, donations to Haemochromatosis International.

NICHOLSON Esther Mary on 27th November, peacefully at home, widow of Archie, much-loved mother of Flora, Mary and Colin, sister of Ruth and grandmother of Archie, Mimi, Alastair, Violet, Jemima, Bertie, Wilf and Freya. Funeral service and afterwards at St John's Church, Seaborough, Dorset, at noon on Monday 12th December, followed by Beaminster reception. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Dementia UK, c/o A J Wakely & Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3LB. Tel: 01308 423 726.

RYAN Wg Cdr Michael Arthur Frederick, RAF, died peacefully on 15th November 2022, aged 86. Dearly loved husband of Jo, father of Claire and Nicholas, grandfather of Fergus, Rebecca and Julia. Funeral to be held at St Botolph's Church, Chevening, on Wednesday 14th December at 2pm. No flowers please, but donations, if wished, to www.rafbf.org

TEARE Irene Carol, died peacefully on 14th November 2022, aged 81, at her home on the Isle of Man. Wife of the late Clifford, mother to Helen, Robert, Diana and James. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place on the Isle of Man on Tuesday 6th December at 11.30am. Inquiries to David Lancaster Funeral Directors Ltd. Tel: 01624 842945 or www.davidlancasterfuneraldirectors.im

WILLIAMSON John R. W. G., FRCS, FRCOG, died peacefully at home in Cambridge on 23rd November 2022, aged 83. Dearly loved husband of Madeline, father of Anna, Richard and Katharine and grandfather of Rosie, Mattie, Bella and Jenny. All inquiries to Peasgood & Skeates, 617 Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8PA. Tel: 01223 415255.

In Memoriam - Private

THOMAS, WYNDHAM 1924-2019
Dad, I love you and miss you; if you're passing by, call in and see me, Sally xx

The simple way to place your announcement in The Times. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

newsukadvertising.co.uk

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

Court Circular

Kensington Palace
1st December, 2022
The Prince and Princess of Wales this morning visited Greentown Labs, 444 Somerville Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Their Royal Highnesses today visited Roca Incorporated, 101 Park Street, Chelsea, Massachusetts.

St James's Palace
1st December, 2022
The Earl of Wessex, President, the Seafarers' Charity, this morning received Mr Paul Butterworth (Chairman) and Ms Deborah Layde (Chief Executive Officer).

The Earl and Countess of Wessex this evening attended the Royal Variety Performance in aid of the Royal Variety Charity at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7, and were received by Colonel Jane Davis (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London).

The Countess of Wessex this morning visited Whizz-Kidz at Guildford Baptist Church, Millmead, Guildford, to mark the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Michael More-Molyneux).

St James's Palace
1st December, 2022
The Princess Royal, Honorary Fellow, Royal Institute of Navigation, this evening held a Seventy Fifth Anniversary Reception at St James's Palace.

St James's Palace
1st December, 2022
The Duke of Kent, Patron, St Mungo's, this evening attended a Carol Concert in St Giles-in-the-Fields, 60 St Giles High Street, London WC2, and was received by Mrs Geraldine Norris (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

Legal Notices

KATHLEEN DOROTHY READ
OTHERWISE KATHLEEN DOROTHY READ-EL-SAEED LATE OF MIDDLESBROUGH, TEESIDE DIED THERE ON 25 JULY 2019

DAVID NIGEL JESSOP
LATE OF HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE DIED THERE ON 4 OCTOBER 2020

JOYCE ELIZABETH REDDIHOUGH
SPINSTER, LATE OF KEIGHLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE DIED THERE ON 19 JULY 2021

ANTHONY WILLIAM BESSANT
LATE OF PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE DIED THERE ON 30 OCTOBER 2021

ANTHONY BRESLINI
OTHERWISE WILLIAM BRESLIN LATE OF EASTBORNE, EAST SUSSEX DIED THERE ON 19 MAY 2021

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to BVD, PO Box 2119, Croydon CR90 9QU, United Kingdom DX: 325801 Croydon 51 or at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

Government Legal Department

WORLD 21 WHISKIES AWARDS

Trustpilot
Average Reviews
★★★★★
Excellent

LONDON CASK COMPANY

Call now to speak with one of our cask specialists
02031503031
admin@londoncaskco.com

TEXT THE WORD 'WHISKY' TO 88440

EARN AN AVERAGE OF 13%* PER ANNUM INVESTING IN WHISKEY**

You've heard the phrase '*ages like a fine wine*' – but what about a fine whiskey?



- Access to Ireland and Scotland's most prestigious distilleries
- Assets are securely stored and fully insured
- Access to some of the world rarest casks up to 30 years matured
- Access to casks that have broken records at some of the worlds most famous auctions.
- Easily realizable asset should there be a change of circumstances
- Offers potential for rapid growth, which is tax-free, as well as steady returns
- Earn up to 13% per annum*
- Discounted purchase prices available

Request the London Cask Co Investment Guide today to learn more and embark on your own potentially lucrative whiskey investment adventure.

Scan the QR code or visit: www.londoncaskco.com

*Estimated return and not guaranteed

**The investment in whiskey may not be suitable for all. Investors should seek independent investment, legal and tax advice concerning the potential consequences of investing in cask whiskey.

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code for access to our whiskey investment guide

London Cask Co, is a company registered in England & Wales under the Company number 13327177. Our head office is based in 40 Bank Street, 30th Floor, Canary Wharf, E14 5NR, London, England.



READ IN MORE COMFORT

SPECIAL OFFER: SAVE £150

Quote code 7920, while stocks last.

Floor ~~£399.99~~ now **£249.99**

Table ~~£349.99~~ now **£199.99**

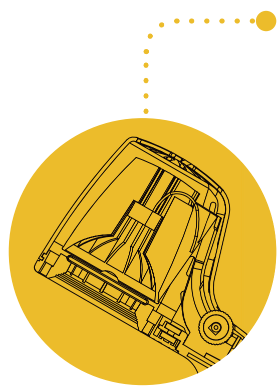
Plus FREE Delivery worth £12.95

Are you struggling to read or to see detail and colours clearly? Even healthy eyes need extra light as we age. Eye conditions make it worse still. Many of us are suffering needlessly.

The right light will make a life-changing difference. Ever since we built our first light for our Founder's mum, our all-consuming passion and sole focus has been building performance light tools that help you see and feel so much better.

With the advent of LEDs, it is time for halogen technology to step aside. However, the halogen Daylight Wavelength Technology™ in our Legacy Edition High Definition Lights was 35 years in development and we have a few left. You get 10x more light on your page. The natural light match is as good as is technically possible. It is no accident it has been our most popular light for over a decade.

- ✓ **Get all the light you need, exactly where you need it**
- ✓ **Enjoy crystal clear clarity & colours**
- ✓ **Receive a light fully hand-built here in Great Britain**
- ✓ **Recommended by over 500 independent opticians**
- ✓ **30 day risk-free trial and a 5 year guarantee**



Daylight Wavelength Technology™
10x more light on your page than a 60W filament bulb.



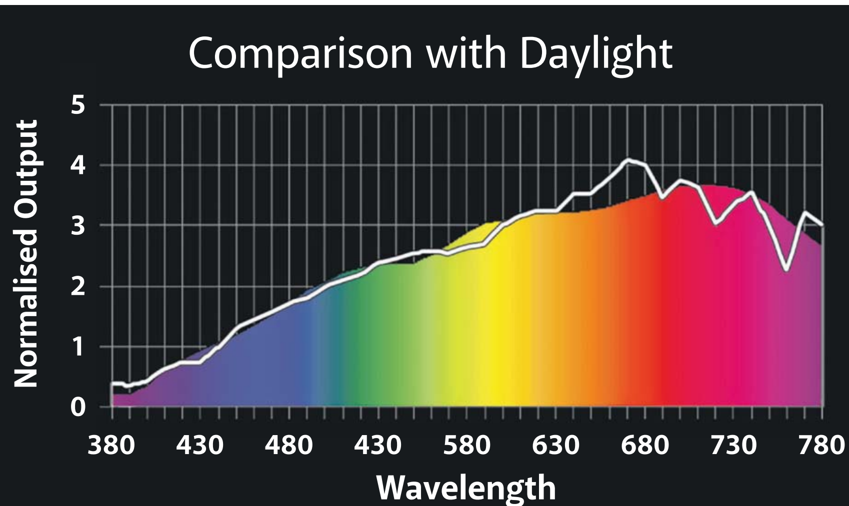


Models shown:
High Definition Legacy Edition Heavyweight Floor & Lightweight Table

HAND MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SEE THE DIFFERENCE 30 day RISK FREE TRIAL
WARRANTY 5 year
NO ASSEMBLY NEEDED

"An enormous improvement in my ability to read without strain."

Mr Lane-Jones | Wiltshire



The colour illustrates the make-up of natural light. The white line shows how close our Legacy Edition High Definition Light gets to it.

For Advice. For a Brochure. To Order:

0800 085 1088

seriousreaders.com/7920

Serious Readers® Light up your life indoors™

MUNROSPUN SCOTLAND
WINTER WHITE ARAN KNITS
£30 OFF NOW FROM ONLY £49.95





COLLAR COAT | TT22080 | ~~£129.95~~ £99.95
AVAILABLE IN ALL COLOURS MARKED (C)



CREW | TT21534 | ~~£79.95~~ £49.95



FUNNEL | TT21535 | ~~£89.95~~ £59.95

Send to: Freepost RTGU-YKRR-HHST, The House of Bruar, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry PH18 5BR (UK only)

CODE	COLOUR	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
				STANDARD UK DELIVERY	£4.95
				GRAND TOTAL	

Please make **cheques** payable to **The House of Bruar Ltd** or provide card details below.

TIMFRI4

The House of Bruar Ltd. (or via agents) may mail or email offers reflecting your preferences.
Please tick if you DO NOT want to receive: ☐ mail from us ☐ email from us ☐ offers from carefully selected third parties.

Credit / Debit / Maestro card number

Valid from M M Y Y Valid to M M Y Y Issue number (Maestro only) Security digits

Name .... Address ....

Postcode .... Telephone / Mobile ....

E-mail

WRAP UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Made in wonderfully soft and warm pure new wool, these authentic Aran designs – shown here in much-loved traditional ecru but also available in a range of beautiful country colours – are now even better value with this £30 OFF special offer. Just use the code TIMFRI4 when ordering to claim your discount, but do hurry while stocks last. Visit our website to explore our full range of country living essentials.

TO ORDER PLEASE CALL 0345 136 0111

COMPLETE & POST FORM ABOVE OR ORDER ONLINE

WWW.HOUSEOFBRUAR.COM/LAR

QUOTE '**TIMFRI4**' AT CHECKOUT FOR OFFER PRICE
THIS OFFER ENDS 30TH DECEMBER 2022



Would you want a complete stranger making decisions about your money, your house or your health and wellbeing – including where you live – while your family is powerless to do anything to protect you? This could happen without a Lasting Power of Attorney in place.

Without an LPA in place

Your next of kin doesn't have the legal right to make decisions for you!

- *You cannot renegotiate your interest rate on a joint mortgage*
- *Sole and joint bank accounts can be frozen*
- *Bills can't be paid from your money*
- *Investment decisions can't be made (any previous authority given to make investment decisions is cancelled)*
- *Property can't be sold, meaning a co-habiting partner can't move house if they wanted to*
- *Next of kin don't have the legal right to make decisions about medical treatment or care*

Losing mental capacity is not just an age thing. Protect yourself today. Get specialist advice from an expert at Honey.

To claim your EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT call us today:

0800 847 7124 **Quoting 'Honey01'**

or visit: www.honeylegal.co.uk

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney?

It's an important legal document that lets you appoint one or more people to help you make decisions, or make decisions on your behalf, if you're unable to.

If you don't plan ahead and you suffer an accident or illness which causes you to lose mental capacity, your next of kin can only get the legal authority to act on your behalf through a Court Order. This can be a long, costly and stressful process.

Why choose Honey?

- Over 66,000 satisfied customers
- The most trusted Estate Planning company in the UK according to Trustpilot
- Over £18bn worth of estates protected to date
- 40-strong legal department including solicitors regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Trustpilot ★★★★★

Honey has **over 8,200** Trustpilot reviews.

LEADERS IN SPECIALIST ESTATE PLANNING ADVICE | WILLS | LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY | TRUSTS | PROBATE

Call free today to find out how much you could release – 0808 500 1536

Unlock tax-free cash from your home

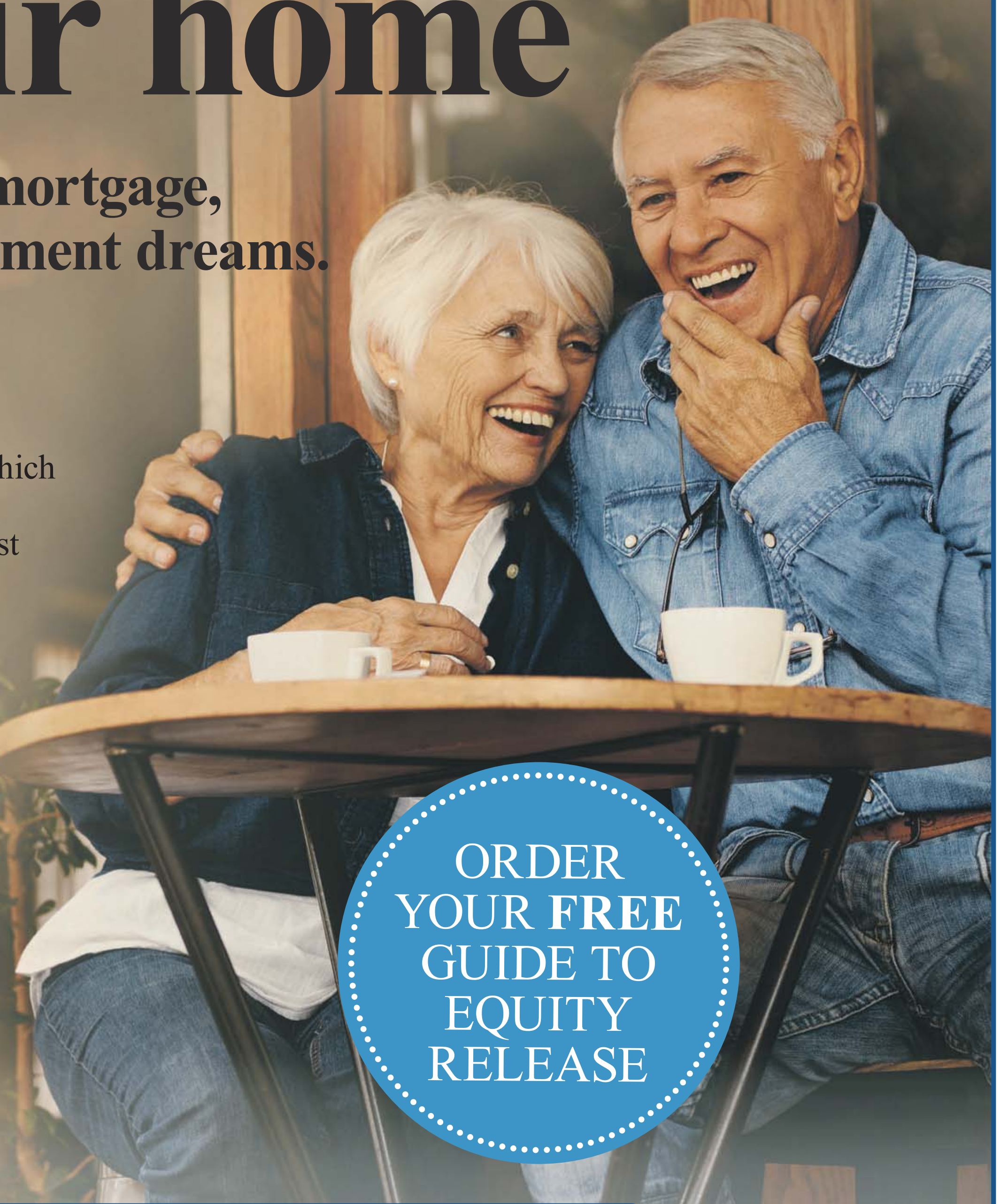
and pay off any outstanding mortgage, so you can achieve your retirement dreams.

Whether it's for a new opportunity or simply to improve your lifestyle, the money tied up in your home can help you realise your goals.

Equity release may involve a lifetime mortgage which is a loan secured against your home, or a home reversion plan, and the money plus accrued interest is repaid on death or entering long-term care

It's important to know that it reduces the value of your estate and requires paying off any existing mortgage. It may also affect any entitlement to means-tested benefits now or in the future.

Please ask us for a no-obligation personalised illustration which will explain the features, costs and risks.



ORDER YOUR **FREE** GUIDE TO EQUITY RELEASE

Age Partnership+

To find out how much cash you could release, or to request your FREE guide, call

Freephone 0808 500 1536

or visit agepartnership.co.uk/TheTimes

THE TIMES money mentor ACCREDITED BROKER Equity Release Spring 2022

Age Partnership Plus is a trading name of Age Partnership Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 425432. Company registered in England and Wales No. 5265969. VAT registration number 162 9355 92. Registered address, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.. Correct at time of print.

Or return this coupon to get your FREE guide to equity release, to: Freepost Age Partnership

Title: .... Name: ....

Address: ....

Date of Birth: .... Postcode: .... Tel: .... Are you a homeowner? ❑

By supplying your address you are confirming that you are happy for Age Partnership+ to contact you via letter regarding products and services relevant to your enquiry. Age Partnership+ will contact you on the telephone number you are providing regarding your enquiry. For more information, please visit www.agepartnership.co.uk/plus/privacy or to request to opt out at any time, email enquiries@agepartnership.com

TheTimes_FP_Jun22

warm fleece lined Men's water resistant trousers

Sizes 32"- 48"



Charcoal

PEGASUS



SAVE UP TO £15

ALL SIZES JUST £25 +p&p





Also in Black

Fleece Lining keeps warmth in

Water Resistant keeps wet out

THERMAL

STAY WARM AND DRY THIS WINTER

Comfort and Warmth throughout the Winter!

Feast your eyes on this fantastic offer from Chums the trouser specialists... worried about keeping warm enough throughout the cold dark winter days and nights? Not anymore! These fully lined water resistant trousers are guaranteed to keep you warm and dry and are at a price that won't leave you feeling blue so order today and stay warm this winter.

A totally warm fleece trouser with a water resistant coating to keep the damp and wet out and a cosy lining to keep the warmth in. Tailored in easy care machine washable polyester and designed with your comfort in mind with stretch side elasticated waist, button and zip front fastening, belt loops, two front roomy pockets and a touch fastening back pocket. Available in a choice of five robust colours **Navy, Charcoal, Khaki, Black and Airforce**; Waist sizes from 32" to 48" and four leg lengths **27", 29", 31" and 33".**

WINTER WARMERS - SAVE UP TO £15 PER PAIR

WAIST SIZES	WAS	OFFER PRICE	YOU SAVE!
32, 34, 36	~~£30~~	£25	**£5**
38, 40, 42	~~£37~~	£25	**£12**
44, 46, 48	~~£40~~	£25	**£15**

ORDER STYLE MT260 - WATER RESISTANT TROUSERS

ORDER ONLINE NOW – IT'S FAST, SAFE & EASY!

www.chums.co.uk/offers

and enter media code: 48T22

IMPORTANT! YOU MUST ENTER MEDIA CODE ON OUR WEBSITE TO BENEFIT FROM THIS PROMOTIONAL OFFER

PayPal Now accepted

Chums

Our friendly UK Customer Service Staff are waiting to take your order. Call Now!

08715 267 166

Calls cost 13 pence per minute, plus your network access charge

Send cheques/POs/Mastercard/Visa/Maestro card details to:
Chums Ltd (Dept. 48T22), P.O. Box 50, Prescot, Merseyside L34 9GX.

Chums offer you FREE RETURNS and complete satisfaction if you want an exchange or your money back. Goods usually delivered within 7 days.

Personal shoppers welcome at our showroom, Open Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm, M57 Junction 4, off School Lane, Unity Grove, Knowsley Business Park, Liverpool, L34 9AR.

SHOP AT HOME - DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR - FREE RETURNS!

Chums Ltd., (Dept. 48T22), P.O. Box 50, Prescot, Merseyside L34 9GX.
Please send me item(s) indicated PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Order Style MT260 Water Resistant Trousers

ORDER STYLE	COLOUR	SIZE	INSIDE LEG	QTY	PRICE
				Sub Total	
				UK mainland P&P	£5.95
				TOTAL	

I enclose Cheques / POs made payable to Chums Ltd for £ ____________
Please write your name and address (inc. post code) on reverse of cheque or charge my MasterCard/Visa/Maestro Account No.

MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Maestro ☐ (please tick) debit my a/c number as shown below

START DATE: MONTH/YEAR / EXPIRY DATE: MONTH/YEAR / CARD ISSUE NO. ________ (Maestro Cards only)

Title ________ Forename ________________

Surname ________________

Address ________________

________________ Post Code ________

Telephone ________________ Email ________________

We think you'd enjoy some of the latest products and selected offers by post from other trusted retailers, charities, finance, travel, FMCG and utility companies. If you would prefer not to receive these by post, please tick this box ☐.
To learn more about our trusted partners and how we use your data, see our privacy policy at www.chums.co.uk/privacy or ask for a copy when you call us. From time to time Chums would like to send you our latest catalogues, special offers and promotions by post that we think you'd appreciate as a valued customer. If you would prefer not to receive these, please tick this box ☐.

MEDIA CODE **48T22**

Chums Ltd. Co. Reg. No. 1561474

Weather

Today Patchy drizzle and showers across eastern Britain, largely dry in the west. Max 11C (52F), min -2C (28F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr* 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday
Aberdeen	7	C	4.4	1.2
Aberporth	7	M	0.0	6.4
Anglesey	10	C	0.0	1.2
Aviemore	**	**	2.0	2.6
Barnstaple	9	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	5	M	0.2	**
Belfast	10	C	2.4	0.3
Birmingham	5	M	0.0	**
Bournemouth	4	DU	0.2	1.6
Bridlington	6	C	0.0	**
Bristol	4	FG	0.2	0.0
Camborne	11	PC	0.0	**
Cardiff	5	C	0.0	0.0
Edinburgh	7	C	1.0	0.5
Eskdalemuir	4	FG	1.4	1.6
Glasgow	6	M	1.0	0.2
Hereford	4	FG	0.2	**
Herstmonceux	9	PC	0.0	2.0
Ipswich	8	PC	0.0	0.1
Isle of Man	11	DU	1.4	0.0
Isle of Wight	**	**	0.0	**
Jersey	10	R	0.2	0.0
Keswick	8	C	0.0	**
Kinloss	10	R	8.6	0.0
Leeds	6	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	8	R	8.8	**
Leuchars	7	C	4.8	0.0
Lincoln	6	DU	0.0	0.0
Liverpool	7	M	0.0	**
London	6	M	0.0	1.8
Lyneham	2	C	0.2	2.0
Manchester	6	M	0.0	0.0
Margate	8	D	0.0	**
Milford Haven	10	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	4	M	0.0	**
Nottingham	5	M	0.0	0.1
Orkney	9	R	9.4	0.0
Oxford	5	FG	0.4	**
Plymouth	10	PC	0.0	**
Portland	9	S	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	11	B	0.0	**
Shoreham	8	PC	0.0	0.8
Shrewsbury	5	M	0.0	0.0
Snowdonia	10	C	0.0	**
Southend	9	C	0.0	0.2
South Uist	12	DU	3.0	**
Stornoway	12	R	4.8	0.0
Tiree	12	C	5.8	0.0
Whitehaven	7	C	0.0	0.9
Wick	9	R	15.0	**
Yeovilton	2	FG	0.4	0.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	15	PC	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	8	PC	Madrid	11	S
Athens	18	PC	Malaga	13	B
Auckland	19	B	Mallorca	14	B
Bahrain	27	S	Malta	17	PC
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	18	B
Barbados	29	PC	Mexico City	24	B
Barcelona	14	PC	Miami	29	B
Beijing	0	S	Milan	9	S
Beirut	22	PC	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	5	PC	Montreal	5	R
Berlin	0	M	Moscow	-13	S
Bermuda	22	PC	Mumbai	32	S
Bordeaux	10	PC	Munich	3	DU
Brussels	6	B	Nairobi	24	PC
Bucharest	1	R	Naples	15	S
Budapest	6	S	New Orleans	19	S
Buenos Aires	31	B	New York	14	R
Cairo	23	S	Nice	14	PC
Calcutta	28	S	Nicosia	23	PC
Canberra	18	DU	Oslo	0	SN
Cape Town	25	PC	Paris	6	B
Chicago	-3	DU	Perth	23	C
Copenhagen	5	C	Prague	1	M
Corfu	17	B	Reykjavik	6	SH
Delhi	22	S	Riga	-3	DU
Dubai	30	S	Rio de Janeiro	29	PC
Dublin	11	B	Riyadh	26	B
Faro	15	B	Rome	13	S
Florence	12	S	San Francisco	13	PC
Frankfurt	5	C	Santiago	23	PC
Geneva	6	B	São Paulo	23	S
Gibraltar	14	B	Seoul	-3	PC
Helsinki	-1	B	Seychelles	28	SH
Hong Kong	17	PC	Singapore	29	SH
Honolulu	**	**	St Petersburg	-4	PC
Istanbul	15	B	Stockholm	0	D
Jerusalem	24	S	Sydney	21	B
Johannesburg	26	PC	Tel Aviv	24	S
Kuala Lumpur	31	PC	Tenerife	23	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	10	B
Lanzarote	23	PC	Vancouver	3	B
Las Palmas	23	PC	Venice	10	S
Lima	19	S	Vienna	2	S
Lisbon	14	PC	Warsaw	1	B
Los Angeles	17	B	Washington	13	DU
Luxor	24	S	Zurich	3	B

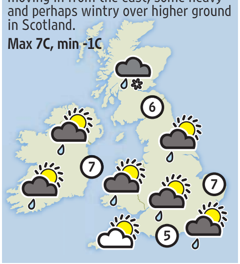
Five days ahead

An unsettled period with heavy scattered showers, perhaps turning wintry across northern Britain

Tomorrow

Bright spells with scattered showers moving in from the east, some heavy and perhaps wintry over higher ground in Scotland.

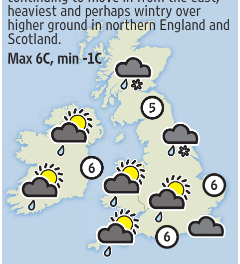
Max 7C, min -1C



Sunday

Largely cloudy with scattered showers continuing to move in from the east, heaviest and perhaps wintry over higher ground in northern England and Scotland.

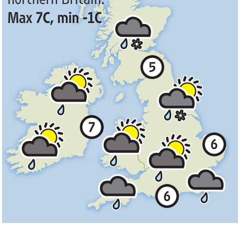
Max 6C, min -1C



Monday

Bright spells and scattered showers across Ireland and parts of western Britain. Cloudy with scattered showers elsewhere, some turning wintry in northern Britain.

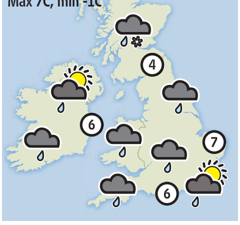
Max 7C, min -1C



Tuesday

Patchy cloud and showery rain across much of the British Isles, heaviest across eastern Ireland and wintry in central Scotland.

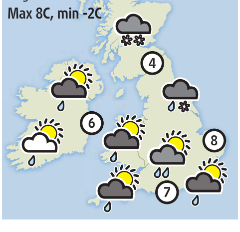
Max 7C, min -1C



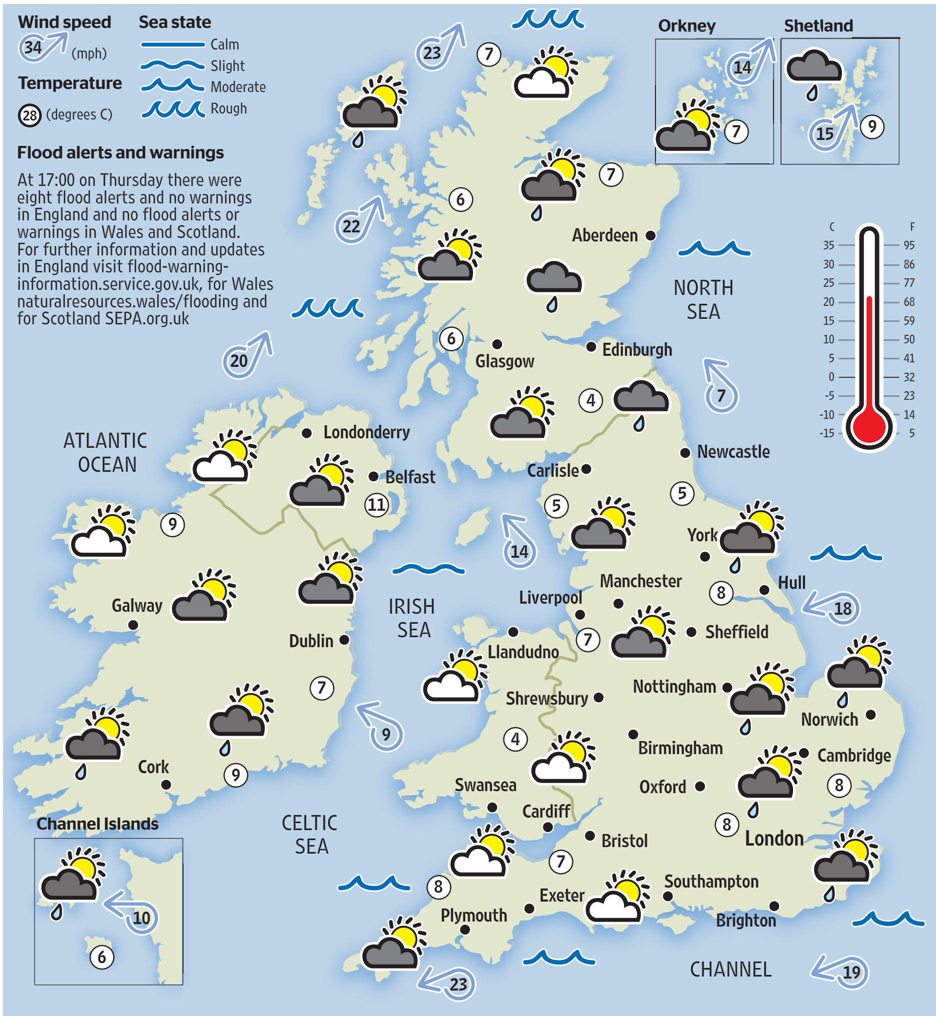
Wednesday

Bright intervals and scattered showers across southern Britain and Ireland, heaviest in central England. Snow showers across Scotland and northern England.

Max 8C, min -2C



The Times weather page is provided by Weather**quest**



Flood alerts and warnings

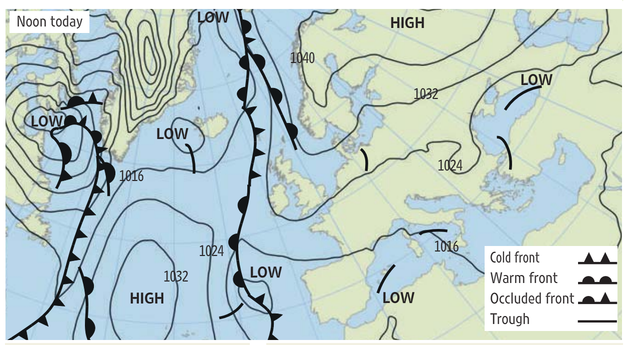
At 17:00 on Thursday there were eight flood alerts and no warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales and Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Showery rain and drizzle across eastern England and Scotland, mostly dry in western areas. **London, SE Eng, E Anglia, E Mids, E Eng:** Patchy mist and fog clearing through the morning to leave an afternoon of bright spells and scattered showers. Light northeasterly winds, moderate at times. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum 1C (34F). **Edinburgh and Dundee, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Cen Highland, Borders, NE Eng, N Isles:** A cloudy and unsettled day with showery rain spreading eastwards through the afternoon. Light south to southeasterly winds, moderate in places. Maximum 7C (45F), minimum -2C (28F). **NW Eng, Cen N Eng, Lake District, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, NE Scotland:** Patchy mist and fog clearing by midday to leave a mostly dry day with the odd isolated shower forming in the afternoon. Light southeasterly winds. Maximum 7C (45F), minimum 2C (36F). **SW Eng, Wales, W Mids, Cen S Eng, Channel Is:** Early mist and fog clearing to leave a largely dry day with sunny spells and a chance of the odd isolated shower by the late afternoon. Light to moderate easterly winds. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum 0C (32F). **Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** A largely dry morning with sunny spells and the odd spot of drizzle. Patchy rain will move into the south by the afternoon. Light southeasterly winds. Maximum 11C (52F), minimum 1C (34F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	08:52	3.7	20:53	3.8
Avonmouth	01:48	10.4	14:25	10.9
Belfast	06:17	3.1	18:31	3.3
Cardiff	01:34	9.8	14:11	10.2
Devonport	00:30	4.5	12:54	4.8
Dover	05:55	5.8	18:56	5.7
Dublin	05:44	3.6	17:51	3.8
Falmouth	00:11	4.1	12:28	4.4
Greenock	07:27	3.0	19:38	3.2
Harwich	06:18	3.4	19:06	3.6
Holyhead	05:41	4.7	17:49	5.1
Hull	00:35	6.4	13:48	6.3
Leith	09:52	4.8	22:10	4.9
Liverpool	06:09	7.8	18:32	8.3
London Bridge	08:24	6.0	21:07	6.4
Lowestoft	03:32	2.4	17:31	2.3
Milford Haven	00:56	5.6	13:29	6.0
Morecambe	06:23	7.7	18:46	8.2
Newhaven	06:03	5.8	18:36	5.6
Newquay	--:--	--	12:28	6.0
Oban	01:11	2.9	13:43	3.4
Penzance	11:57	4.8	--:--	--
Portsmouth	06:42	4.3	18:56	4.1
Shoreham	06:13	5.4	18:45	5.2
Southampton	08:07	4.1	20:43	3.8
Swansea	01:00	7.5	13:35	8.0
Tees	11:07	4.7	23:09	4.9
Weymouth	01:36	1.5	13:55	1.6



Synoptic situation

A warm front associated with a low-pressure system to the northeast of Greenland will bring showery rain to eastern Scotland through much of the afternoon. Easterly winds will strengthen through the day bringing patches of drizzle into eastern Britain, becoming heavier and more frequent by the afternoon and continuing for the next few days.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Achnagart, Inverness-shire, 12.6C
Coldest: Redesdale, -2.1C
Wettest: Wick, Caithness, 15.0mm
Sunniest: Aberporth, 6.4hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 07.44
Sun sets: 15.54
Moon rises: 13.44
Moon sets: 02.10 Sat
Full Moon: December 8

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	16:01-07:56
Belfast	16:32-07:55
Birmingham	16:26-07:28
Cardiff	16:36-07:28
Exeter	16:41-07:26
Glasgow	16:18-07:56
Liverpool	16:26-07:37
London	16:24-07:16
Manchester	16:23-07:34
Newcastle	16:12-07:40
Norwich	16:13-07:16
Penzance	16:52-07:32
Sheffield	16:20-07:31

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



Being plunged into fog this week feels like crawling through a murky, dank, clammy and cold atmosphere. But then this was familiar territory for Charles Dickens, as he described Scrooge's Christmas Eve in *A Christmas Carol*: "It was cold, bleak, biting weather; the fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense that, although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms." And fog was the cloak that hid all manner of wicked goings-on in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and Arthur Conan Doyle's *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

But then in real life fog can be a sinister experience. In December 1946 a fog over southeast England was so dense that it led to widespread chaos on roads and railways, but also provided the ideal opportunity for all sorts of villainous activity. Burglars stole jewels worth thousands of pounds from a home in Surrey, while in London hundreds of shoes and boots were pilfered from a lorry in Tottenham, and electric clocks worth £1,000 were snatched from a truck in Woodford Green.

How the thieves got away is uncertain because traffic had ground to a standstill in the fog, made even worse when many gave up and abandoned their cars. The chaos was a particular problem for a large crowd that had gone to watch an ice hockey match at Wembley Stadium. They found themselves stranded when bus services were suspended, but spectators who could not get home were invited to skate on a nearby ice rink for free, presumably all night long.

For Sam Bartram, goalkeeper for Charlton Athletic, fog was particularly unfortunate during a match against Chelsea in December 1937. The game had kicked off but soon afterwards the football stadium went strangely quiet. Bartram remained in his penalty area until a policeman loomed out of the gloom and asked what he was doing. "The game was stopped a quarter of an hour ago. The field's completely empty," the officer said.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 77 76 75

8am to 6pm daily (calls charged at £1.50 per minute plus network extras)

weather**quest**

For more information on the services we can provide, visit our website: **www.weatherquest.co.uk**



Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word.

Find yourself in a literary haven on board Cunard's Literature Festival at Sea. This event, curated by the team of The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival, sees authors, poets, journalists, critics, and historians unite on this voyage.

Enjoy this seven-day programme of events which celebrate the written word. Guests include bestselling authors Lynda La Plante, Kate Mosse and Anthony Beevor; journalists Julia Wheeler, Daniel Finkelstein; literary agent Luigi Bonomi; and former Home Secretary and author, Alan Johnson.

OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS CUNARD · CHELTENHAM Literature Festival

DEPARTURE: NOVEMBER 19, 2023
SEVEN NIGHTS FROM
INSIDE: £1,134 PP
BALCONY: £1,634 PP
GRILL SUITES: £3,754 PP

CALL 0808 134 9719
QUOTE TIMES
thetimes.co.uk/litfest2023

Cunard Fares shown are based on two adults sharing the lowest grade of stateroom available within the applicable stateroom type and are subject to availability. Fares for sole occupancy and supplementary fares are available on request. Speakers and on-board activities are subject to change. Some on-board activities will incur an additional charge. All information is correct at the time of going to print. For full terms and conditions visit cunard.com. *Cover charge applies for alternative dining options. ^Book via the phone number on this advert and quote TIMES to enjoy access to additional on-board events for Times readers.

Sport

Utter betrayal! Pain of the man in row Q

Matt Dickinson



Senior Sports Writer

This column comes to you from the heart rather than the head. It may be irrational. It will stray, unapologetically, into bitterness and resentment. In other words it is about football and fandom.

Or, to put it another way, Michael Beale is a duplicitous git guilty of a terrible betrayal. At home, we call him much worse.

The byline at the top says "senior sports writer" but it should probably read: by the man who sits in row Q, block R of the Stanley Bowles Stand at Loftus Road simmering with rage at finding his club without a head coach.

With a World Cup going on, you may not be closely following how Beale, the aforementioned git, has left Queens Park Rangers to head elsewhere. I believe they are called Glasgow Rangers. Scottish, apparently. I won't be rooting for them any time soon.

Should I care? Should you? Managers come and go. They look after themselves, knowing that the game chews up all but the very best.

I should know better than most how managers say one thing and do another. After three decades of covering football I have been told enough times that player X is fit when he is in a treatment room down the corridor with a broken leg, and that manager Y has no intention of moving while his agent is completing the deal and hammering out the bonus structure.

I take that as a reporter, and it is part of the job to see through the bullshit. But, of course, as a fan — especially a paying fan — it is different. It is personal. It is, as Nick Hornby wrote peerlessly in *Fever Pitch*, the stuff that gets into our blood and our bones.

"Not for the first time in my life, and certainly not for the last, a self-righteous gloom had edged out all semblance of logic," as he wrote of one particularly bad day as a supporter. A righteous anger seethes through fans of QPR because we feel used, fooled, betrayed — and, perhaps worst of all, because of the nagging hope-turned-dread that Beale could actually be very good. Too good for us, the bastard, unless his treachery is evidence that overweening ambition is a flaw that, Macbeth-like, could undermine his abilities.

Beale had us believing. He had us refreshing the Sky Bet Championship table on our phones in astonishment that we were top. Promotion? We were giddy at the thought

And then Wolverhampton Wanderers came calling for him in October. Chatting with Giles Coren — The Times has its own QPR section — when news of an official approach from Wolves broke as we battered Cardiff City and Lyndon Dykes played like Hot Shot Hamish, I mustered all my worldly cynicism to explain sadly that a club like Wolves would not initiate formalities unless the deal was done. Because that would make them look stupid.

But then something truly astonishing happened. Beale turned down their money. He talked about weird stuff like integrity and loyalty. "If those are the things you live by…you have to be strong by them," he said. He explained that he had persuaded so many players to join his project at Loftus Road that he could not just abandon them.

"I have been all-in here and I have asked other people to be all-in so I can't be the first person to run away from the ship," he said. And, stupid fools, we dared to imagine that he might have meant it. Or meant it for more than 36 days, anyway.

We could ignore inconvenient contradictions — Beale claiming that he did not have direct talks with Wolves even though a Midlands correspondent with impeccable contacts reported that Beale was seen two times and made an outstanding presentation, whoops — because he had told us he was staying. He was building a career, a team, a reputation. He was patient. A man of loyalty and integrity. His words.

"The only reasons for leaving QPR right now would be selfish ones around ego, status or finance. And that's not really me," Beale told The Daily Telegraph. Oh, Michael. The worst of it all is you had us fooled. Yes, I know, foolish him for saying it, and even more foolish us for thinking that he might have meant it.

"Loyalty will always be rewarded," as the banner, bearing his face, said at the next match away to Birmingham City. Someone should put it in a museum: it says more about the messy realities of life than Tracey Emin's dishevelled bed, especially given that the following day, Beale turned up at Rangers and sat in the directors' box which, in hindsight, seems a strange coincidence.

CRAIG WILLIAMSON/SNS



Beale, despite telling fans he planned to stay at Loftus Road this season because he was a man of loyalty and integrity, has become the new manager of Rangers

Of course we should have known that football always kicks you in the teeth but supporting a club is also an act of faith, hope and optimism. QPR were not the club I first followed but — to cut a long story short — my wife worked there, my children took it up and, almost ten years of season tickets later, it is mine even on those days when I really wish it wasn't.

I have grown to love it and we quickly loved Beale: a pot-bellied man in an ill-fitting tracksuit who looked as though he walked off your local rec but could be a rising star.

Giles's son was so elated when Beale turned down Wolves that he cried. I thought that it at least showed someone who had the sense to see that staying for a season, minimum, was good for Brand Beale.

So forgive us, after all this, for not being seduced by the narrative that Rangers were the one club he could never turn down, and that he could not know the job would come up so quickly. There are some rejections that are not going to be understood, even if your wife has run off with George Clooney.

And Rangers are not Brad Pitt, even if Beale has a house by Loch Lomond and his family loved it there during his time working as assistant to Steven Gerrard, and he loves nothing better than a pint in a Glaswegian pub. Hurt is not going to be assuaged by knowing that he was always desperately ambitious and amply convinced of his own abilities, even from his days at Chelsea and the Liverpool academy, and when he moved boldly to work at São Paulo in Brazil in 2017, before joining Gerrard at Rangers and Aston Villa.

That Villa sank, and Gerrard was sacked, after Beale moved to QPR in the summer has done wonders for a reputation that he must believe can withstand any amount of opprobrium.

He has been left in no doubt how this has gone down with QPR fans, which may explain why he has deleted his Twitter account.

An excellent QPR blogger, @LoftForWords, wrote an eviscerating piece quoting Groucho Marx: "The two most important words in the world are honesty and sincerity. If you can fake these, you've got it made." Except I am not sure you can fake sincerity for long in elite football or leadership of any high-level sport. Flaws tend to be exposed over time by the relentless scrutiny, the pressures and strains.

Is this one single act of capriciousness or revealing of some characteristic in Beale? Was he just too eager to please, to say the right thing? Or guilty of something worse?

Or, most depressingly, is it not even seen as a flaw in football? Say one thing, do another. Loyalty, integrity, blah blah blah.

Tottenham director among 11 named in Juventus case

Football Indictments of the former Juventus president, Andrea Agnelli, ten other former board members — including the Tottenham Hotspur director of football Fabio Paratici — and the club have been requested by the Turin prosecutor's office after an investigation into alleged false accounting.

The club's former vice-president, Pavel Nedved, and the chief executive, Maurizio Arrivabene, who left on Monday when Agnelli and the entire board of directors resigned, are also named, as is Paratici, 50, the former Juventus director of sport, who joined Spurs last year.

A date for the preliminary hearing to decide whether to indict and proceed to trial is expected to be announced in the next week.

The club said in a statement: "Juventus remains convinced that it has always acted correctly and intends to assert its reasons and defend its corporate, economic and sporting interests in all forums."

Prosecutors have been investigating whether Juventus cashed in on illegal commissions from transfers and loans of players, and also if investors were misled with invoices being issued for non-existent transactions to demonstrate income that in turn could be deemed false accounting.

The case involves player contracts, transfers and agent dealings from 2018-20.

2022 Sports Book of the Year winner announced

Jeremy Wilson is the 34th winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award. His book, *Beryl: In Search of Britain's Greatest Athlete*, pays homage to the life of the champion cyclist Beryl Burton, capturing her life to reveal an incredible story about one of the greatest cyclists of all time. Wilson collected the trophy and a £30,000 prize in London last night.

Alyson Rudd of The Times, chair of the judging panel, said: "It is quite simply a tour de force and leaves the reader emotionally drained but also uplifted." The four other shortlisted authors were Craig Bromfield, Andy McGrath, Anyika Onuora and Rory Smith.

Essex chairman steps down in offensive tweets row

Cricket Azeem Akhtar has stepped down only three days after becoming the new chairman of Essex, pending an independent review into his apparent endorsement of historical social media posts — one of which compared Israel to Nazi Germany (Elizabeth Ammon writes).

It is alleged that Akhtar "liked" tweets posted over the past 18 months that could be deemed antisemitic, including accusations that the "Zionist lobby" has "oversized" control of the media, and another that read: "Comparing Israel with Nazis is not antisemitic. In fact, many Jewish people have done so themselves." Akhtar was elected as the county's new chairman by a members' vote at a recent AGM. His predecessor, John Faragher, stepped down last year amid claims he had used racially offensive language including the phrase "n***er in the woodpile" in a meeting of the county's board four years ago.

Essex released a statement last night announcing that Akhtar will "voluntarily" step aside while an investigation takes place. Akhtar also issued a statement via Essex's website, saying he had stepped aside "because it is important that I as chair and Essex County Cricket Club more widely hold ourselves to the highest standards of governance and accountability".

Pakistan v England, pages 74-77

Sport

Ohuruogu under investigation for ‘training’ with dope-ban boyfriend

Athletics
Matt Lawton, Daniel Rees

UK Anti-Doping is investigating whether its rules have been breached after the British sprinter Victoria Ohuruogu was photographed training alongside her long-term boyfriend, who is serving a three-year doping ban.

It was announced in April that Antonio Infantino, who was born in England but switched to running for Italy five years ago and competed at the Tokyo Olympic Games, had been banned for failing a drugs test. He specialised in the 100m and 200m.

However, on Saturday Ohuruogu, 29, and Infantino, 31, who have been in a relationship for ten years, went to Willesden Sports Centre in northwest London. A reporter working for The Times watched and took a series of photographs as Ohuruogu, Infantino and another male sprinter completed two 150m sprints as part of a training session. The reporter saw Infantino using cones to mark out the distance and calling for the sprint effort to begin.

At the completion of each of the two repetitions, Infantino also turned to speak to the two athletes and continued to act in a manner that suggested he was leading the session. The photographs certainly indicate as much.

World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) rules do not necessarily prohibit an athlete training alongside a banned athlete, but under article 2.10 of the code an athlete is banned from association “in a professional or sport-related capacity with any athlete support person who … is serving a period of ineligibility”.

The Wada code defines an athlete support person as “any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other person working with, treating or assisting an athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition”.

Ukad will not comment on any active investigation but it has asked The Times to share extensive photographic evidence and for an opportunity to interview the reporter who witnessed the training session.

Ohuruogu enjoyed a breakthrough season over 400m this year, lowering her best from 51.99sec to 50.50 and claiming a Commonwealth silver medal as well as relay bronze at the World Championships in Eugene and the European Championships in Munich. Before last year, when she broke 52 seconds for the first time, her best was 52.71.



Ohuruogu and Infantino, far left, six days ago; and, inset, with her sister



Infantino competed for Italy before his three-year ban

Since the death in January 2021 of her long-term coach, Lloyd Cowan, UK Athletics states that she has been coached by her elder sister, Christine Ohuruogu, the former Olympic and world 400m champion who served a 12-month ban for missing three out-of-competition drug tests between 2005-06. Representatives acting for the 2008 Olympic gold medallist, who was not seen at the track on Saturday, did not respond to a request for comment.

Her younger sister has also declined to comment but Infantino responded via email before following up with a conversation on the telephone. “Victoria has been my partner for over ten years, and we live together and share a car,” he said. “I was running my own 150m session that Saturday. I still like to work out but have no intention of returning to track professionally.

“Vicky had a longer 400m session with her training partner, set by her coach [Christine].

“As far as my lawyers have made me aware, I am allowed to be around Victoria, but not advise or support professionally. Christine has given Victoria her old training diaries and has done an incredible job since our old coach passed away last year. I do not wish for what happened with me to implicate her and we have been very careful for me not to be involved in any professional capacity. I do not coach, write the programme or advise in any sense. I was not at any of her major championships, as Christine attended these.”

The photographs show Infantino running alongside the training partner and then conversing with Ohuruogu shortly after they had finished the 150m sprint. The time stamp on the photographs proves that they had just run down the back straight of the track at precisely the same time.

Despite the reporter being able to hear Infantino, the Italian denied calling out for the sprinters to start each of the two efforts. “I didn’t want my own problems with the sport to impact her — and now this has,” he later added in a telephone conversation. “I believe I have been careful not to breach what I understand to be the rules.”

Infantino is banned from athletics until December 2024, having failed a drugs test in June last year. He nevertheless participated for Italy in the 200m at the Tokyo Games. He was initially suspended in December and in April the Italian anti-doping agency said he broke Wada rules relating to the “presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in an athlete’s sample” and “use or attempted use by an athlete of a prohibited substance or prohibited method”.

Yesterday UK Athletics responded to seeing the photographs of Infantino and Ohuruogu with a statement saying: “Athletes who compete for GB & NI and members of the world-class programme receive regular anti-doping education which outlines their responsibilities towards clean athletics and adhering to the Wada code. We will be communicating with the athlete concerned to ascertain the facts before making any further comment.”

Fury plans to conquer Usyk, China and Hollywood

Boxing
Rick Broadbent

For someone who insists he is focusing only on his next opponent, Tyson Fury laid out a long list of plans in advance of taking on Dereck Chisora tomorrow night. These ranged from accepting Sylvester Stallone’s offer of film roles to a Muhammad Ali-style world boxing tour in 2023.

The WBC champion also mentioned the small matter of Oleksandr Usyk, literally small in his view given his insistence on dubbing the man with three heavyweight belts “the middleweight”. Where that unification fight will be is open to interpretation. Bob Arum, the Top Rank boss who turns 91 next week, said he wanted it to be at Wembley, but Usyk’s camp prefer Saudi Arabia as a location. Money will talk.

Fury was in one of his scattergun modes in his last media address before the third defence of his title, at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. So despite saying he cannot give up boxing because of his addiction to the buzz, he did picture another stage to his story. “I am sure there will be a luxurious and fancy career for me after boxing,” he said. “I have the likes of Guy Ritchie calling me up and offering me films, movie parts. I have been offered Jason Statham and Mark Wahlberg films. I am doing a Netflix series and there might be another after that. Stallone’s dream was to make the Rocky movies and he is still doing them now in his seventies. My dream was to be heavyweight champion and I am still doing it in my thirties.”

It is often hard to discern true ambitions from his contradictory remarks, but in the more immediate future Fury seems consistent in saying he wants to fight more often. Since he dethroned Wladimir Klitschko in 2015, Fury has had only one year in which he has fought more than twice. “My mental health problems and downfall took three years out,” he said. “I’ve had two years out with Covid, so I’ve only had two years of activity [since 2015], which isn’t great.

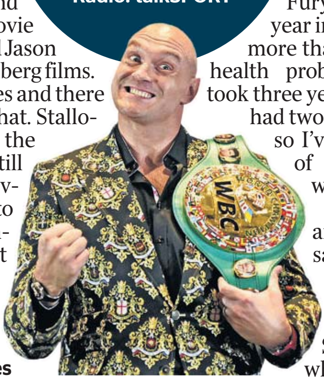
“After I beat Chisora and after I beat Oleksandr Usyk I’m going on a massive campaign all over the world. Emanuel Steward [the trainer who died in 2012] said to me years ago that it’d be great if we had a heavyweight champion of the world who went to places no one else wants to go and get the government to put the money up. Go to Australia and give one of their guys a chance. Go to China. I know it sounds like a pipe dream, a fairytale story, but I want to give some random heavyweight a chance, like Apollo Creed did with Rocky.” Arum said it was what they did with Ali.

Fury has already said he has zero interest in one of Usyk’s belts. He has a long-running feud with the IBF after it stripped him of that belt for refusing to face its mandatory man, Vyacheslav Glazkov, in 2015.

Usyk’s promoter, Alexander-Krassyuk, said: “It is very likely [a bout with Fury] is going to be Saudi but, if not, we have many options to market this fight.”

Arum talked up UK audiences but admitted money may talk. “The Usyk fight will happen,” Arum said, “unless Mr Chisora lands his punch.”

Tyson Fury v Dereck Chisora
Tomorrow
Ring walk from 9.15pm
BT Box Office
Radio: talkSPORT



Fury says Guy Ritchie has offered him film foles

Tour climax in Nice, not Paris

Cycling

The Tour de France will finish in Nice rather than Paris in the summer of 2024, organisers have announced.

The race will end away from the French capital — about 580 miles south — for the first time in its 121-year history on July 21, as Paris builds up to hosting the Olympics a few days later.

The last stage will also be an individual time-trial, along Nice’s famed Promenade des Anglais, rather than the usual ceremonial outing along the Champs-Élysées for the leaders, because of security and logistical reasons before the Games.

It will be the first time the Tour has finished with a time-trial since 1989, when Greg LeMond pipped Laurent Fignon by eight seconds, the closest finish in the race’s history.

Nice hosted the start of the Tour in 1981 and 2020. The 2024 Tour will start on June 29 in Florence.

Sandown Park
Rob Wright

12.40 Valsheda **2.20** Maximilian
1.10 Kansas Du Berlais **2.55** Corrigeen Rock
1.45 Milan Bridge **3.30** Raymond Tusk

Going: chase: good to soft, good in places; hurdle: soft — Racing TV

12.40 Handicap Chase
(£7,700: 3m) (6 runners)

1 /F21- VALSHEDA 254 (D) N Henderson 7-12-0 Mr W Biddick
2 4-1P1 LE BREUIL 24 (B,T,D) B Pauling 10-11-12 Miss Megan Fox (7)
3 112-4 ROLLING DYLAN 196 (P,CD) P Hobbs 11-11-12 Miss E Herbison (7)
4 PP5-0 ROCCO 27 (P) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-11 Mr James Turner (7)
5 03P4- STEP BACK 223 (P,CD) M Bradstock 12-11-11 Miss L Bradstock (7)
6 10-34 I SEE YOU WELL 19 Seamus Mullins 9-11-9 Mr Paddy Barlow

11-8 Valsheda, 3-1 Le Breuil, 9-2 Rolling Dylan, 6-1 Step Back, 14-1 Rocco, I See You Well.

Rob Wright's choice: Valsheda won easily at Ffos Las and is much less exposed than his rivals **Danger** Le Breuil

1.10 Juvenile Hurdle
(3-Y-O: £10,406: 2m) (10)

1 1 NON STOP 31 (D) Joe Tizzard 11-7 H Cobden
2 BENJAMIN BEAR F58 A King 11-2 T Cannon
3 5 HAVAILA 19 M Harris 11-2 H Reed
4 4 KANSAS DU BERLAIS 80 G L Moore 11-2 Jamie Moore
5 P MIDNIGHT TRAIN 33 N Henderson 11-2 J Bowen
6 MY FRIEND WOODY F46 J-R Auvray 11-2 Paul O'Brien
7 4 PENNA ROSSA 19 (P) C Poulton 11-2 Charlie Price
8 PLANET LEGEND F54 (P) Dr R Newland 11-2 S Twiston-Davies
9 SABYINYO F76 (H) Miss S West 11-2 M Goldstein
10 3 TYING THE KNOT 21 A King 11-2 G Sheehan

13-8 Kansas Du Berlais, 4-1 Non Stop, 6-1 Planet Legend, 8-1 Benjamin Bear, 10-1 Havaila, 12-1 Tying The Knot, Sabyinyo, Midnight Train.

Wright choice: Kansas Du Berlais was a close fourth in a listed race at Auteuil **Dangers** Planet Legend, Non Stop

1.45 Handicap Chase (£8,169: 2m 4f) (5)

1 11-21 MILAN BRIDGE 13 (T) P Nicholls 6-11-10 H Cobden
2 11/P- FABLE 363 (W,BF) N Henderson 7-11-8 J Bowen
3 2/13- RAFFLE TICKET 321 M Rowley 8-11-7 A Edwards (3)
4 2-211 GLOIRE D'ATHON 36 (H,T,D) S Humphrey 6-11-6 T Scudamore
5 0-152 ZYON 29 (P) A West 8-10-10 J M Davies

5-4 Milan Bridge, 3-1 Gloire D'Athon, 4-1 Fable, 13-2 Raffle Ticket, 12-1 Zyon.

Wright choice: Milan Bridge, progressive over hurdles, looks the type to make a better chaser **Danger** Gloire D'Athon

2.20 Novices' Hurdle
(Grade 2: £34,170: 2m 4f) (6)

1 11P-2 HENRI THE SECOND 38 (BF) P Nicholls 5-11-2 H Cobden
2 13 HENRY'S FRIEND 27 (D) B Pauling 5-11-2 K Woods
3 21 I'D LIKE TO KNOW 36 (D) C Gordon 5-11-2 T Cannon
4 F-1 MAN AT WORK 27 (D) D Pipe 4-11-2 T Scudamore
5 11-11 MAXIMILIAN 23 (D) D McCain 6-11-2 B Hughes
6 121-1 PARK THIS ONE 35 (D) J Snowden 5-11-2 G Sheehan

5-2 Maximilian, 3-1 Henri The Second, 10-3 Man At Work, 6-1 Park This One, 7-1 Henry's Friend, 10-1 I'd Like To Know.

Wright choice: Maximilian has won both starts over hurdles; looks a smart prospect **Danger** Henri The Second

2.55 Handicap Chase
(£8,169: 1m 7f 119yd) (8)

1 1164- HEARTBREAK KID 245 (B,D) D McCain 7-12-2 B Hughes
2 -2315 MISS AMELIA 27 (D) M Walford 9-11-13 T Midgley (5)
3 4/P-P HIGH UP IN THE AIR 14 (CD) G L Moore 8-11-12 N F Houlihan (3)
4 23-F1 CORRIGEEN ROCK 41 L Russell 5-11-8 D R Fox
5 1-422 ROSE SEA HAS 28 (D) Dr R Newland 7-11-7 S Twiston-Davies
6 202-4 CLONDAW BERTIE 142 (BF) P G Murphy 7-11-5 G Sheehan
7 B3-66 CASA TALL 25 (T,D) T R George 8-11-3 J Bowen
8 55-53 DAREBIN 18 (BF,CD) G L Moore 10-10-2 Jamie Moore

9-4 Corrigeen Rock, 4-1 Miss Amelia, 9-2 Rose Sea Has, 8-1 Clondaw Bertie, Darebin, Heartbreak Kid, 12-1 Casa Tall, 14-1 High Up In The Air.

Wright choice: Corrigeen Rock is up 2lb for his Kelso win; should be more to come **Dangers** Rose Sea Has, Darebin

3.30 Handicap Hurdle (£6,154: 2m) (8)

1 10-21 HUGOS NEW HORSE 27 (D) P Nicholls 5-12-0 H Cobden
2 2-114 MOTHILL 21 (D) N Mulholland 4-12-0 S Twiston-Davies
3 624- RAYMOND TUSK F47 A King 7-11-11 T Cannon
4 33- SADLER'S BAY 280 T R Gretton 5-11-4 B Hughes
5 -2P55 GALAHAD THREEPWOOD 21 (H) B Pauling 5-11-4 K Woods
6 64-41 ORDER OF ST JOHN 18 (P,D) D J Jeffreys 5-10-11 F Lambert (7)
7 -F140 ALIOSKI 21 (T,D) G Brown 5-10-8 Paul O'Brien
8 25-P5 UNIVERSAL SECRET 34 Mrs H Nelmes 5-10-6 Jamie Moore

2-1 Raymond Tusk, 11-4 Hugos New Horse, 5-1 Mothill, 7-1 Galahad Threepwood, 8-1 Sadler's Bay, 10-1 Order Of St John, 25-1 Universal Secret, Alioski.

Wright choice: Raymond Tusk is classy on the Flat; looks well in **Dangers** Galahad Threepwood, Hugos New Horse

Course specialists

Exeter: Trainers P Nicholls, 28 winners from 102 runners, 27.5%; Mrs J Williams, 6 from 26, 23.1%. **Jockey** A Coleman, 11 winners from 38 rides, 28.9%.

Newcastle: Trainers W Haggas, 44 from 147, 29.9%; G Boughey, 24 from 89, 27%. **Jockey** M Crehan, 6 from 31, 19.4%.

Sandown Park: Trainers P Nicholls, 26 from 126, 20.6%; N Henderson, 19 from 105, 18.1%. **Jockey** H Cobden, 20 from 96, 20.8%.

Sedgefield: Trainers D Pipe, 4 from 12, 33.3%; B Ellison, 32 from 133, 24.1%. **Jockey** H Brooke, 33 from 168, 19.6%.

Exeter
Rob Wright

12.15 Gelino Bello **2.35** Ree Okka
12.50 Getaway Cory **3.10** Some Detail
1.25 Groom De Cotte **3.45** Rivers Corner
2.00 Grey Dawning (nb)

Going: good to soft, soft in places — Racing TV

12.15 Novices' Chase (£13,615: 3m) (2)

1 411-1 GELINO BELLO 35 (D) P Nicholls 6-11-9 L Williams
2 211-5 CITY CHIEF 218 (BF) N Henderson 5-11-4 N De Boinville

1-4 Gelino Bello, 3-1 City Chief.

12.50 Handicap Hurdle
(£3,431: 2m 2f 111yd) (9)

1 2U4F- CAPTAIN CUCKOO 270 (T) M Gillard 10-12-0 L Harrison
2 66-U0 GIRANDOLE 13 (B) M Gillard 4-11-13 F Gillard
3 /233- SHOW ON THE ROAD 266 (C) Mrs F M Shaw 11-11-8 B Godfrey
4 23-1P ISLE OF ARON 48 (P,T) T Vaughan 6-11-7 Luca Morgan
5 -4324 KARAKORAM 8 (P,T,D) G Harris 7-11-5 T Durrell
6 /00P- GYLLEN F41 (P) Mitchell Hunt 7-11-2 Miss Elizabeth Gale (3)
7 006-P CHAMPS HILL 12 Joe Tizzard 5-11-0 F Gingell (3)
8 00-00 SIDESHIFT 54 Jonjo O'Neill 5-10-10 Mr Anthony O'Neill (3)
9 33352 GETAWAY CORY 15 (BF) K Woollacott 7-10-8 Mr J Newman

11-4 Getaway Cory, 3-1 Karakoram, 7-2 Isle Of Aron, 13-2 Show On The Road, 12-1 Girandole, Captain Cuckoo, 16-1 Gyllen, Champs Hill, 20-1 Sideshift.

1.25 Handicap Hurdle (£3,976: 2m 6f) (6)

1 3-411 BLENKINSOP 10 H Daly 5-12-1(7ex) H Nugent (3)
2 03P-3 GROOM DE COTTE 31 (T) S Curran 6-11-11 R McLernon
3 36-20 TREVADA 38 (T) O Sherwood 6-11-9 J J Burke
4 300P- MERRY DREAMER 320 (T) Ben Clarke 6-11-7 B R Jones
5 /P6-3 HORN CAPE 25 N Henderson 5-11-3 A Coleman
6 53/3- FAMOUS LAST WORD 578 I Williams 7-11-2 C Todd

5-4 Blenkinsop, 7-2 Groom De Cotte, 4-1 Horn Cape, 7-1 Famous Last Word, 15-2 Trevada, 50-1 Merry Dreamer.

2.00 Novices' Hurdle (£4,629: 2m 1f) (17)

1 12-11 LALLYGAG 28 (CD) P Nicholls 5-11-10 F Gingell (7)
2 34/0- AUBA ME YANG 356 E Lavelle 6-11-0 T Bellamy
3 40-UP FREDDIE FLEETFOOT 37 (H,P) C J Gray 4-11-0 Miss Elizabeth Gale (7)
4 11-2 GREY DAWNING 27 (BF) D Skelton 5-11-0 H Skelton
5 122-P HILLTOWN 36 Seamus Mullins 4-11-0 M G Nolan
6 2/3- HOW WILL I KNOW 341 H Fry 5-11-0 S Bowen
7 4-2 KING OF LOMBARDY 28 Joe Tizzard 4-11-0 B J Powell
8 0 LORD PETHERS 35 D Skelton 4-11-0 D England
9 PU-P PENCIL 188 (H) Nicky Martin 5-11-0 B R Jones
10 0 PRIDE ROCK 16 Jonjo O'Neill 4-11-0 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
11 0-0 ROBINSVILLE 18 Joe Tizzard 5-11-0 A Wedge
12 1-6 ROCKY HILL 17 T Lacey 5-11-0 S Sheppard
13 40-0 WALK ON HIGH 30 (T) H Fry 5-11-0 J J Burke
14 P-246 CAITLIN'S COURT 18 (T) J Frost 5-10-7 J Best
15 0-P0 DOUBLE OR QUITS 14 Alexandra Dunn 5-10-7 C Ring (3)
16 33-00 KIMBERLEY EVE 16 (T) I Williams 4-10-7 C Todd
17 105/6 LITTLE ELSE 17 J Scott 6-10-7 R Dingle

15-8 Grey Dawning, 2-1 Lallygag, 5-1 How Will I Know, 6-1 King Of Lombardy, 14-1 Auba Me Yang, 20-1 Walk On High, 25-1 Pride Rock, Rocky Hill, Hilltown.

2.35 Handicap Chase (£10,130: 2m 3f) (11)

1 F-20P CAPTAIN TOM CAT 21 (P) Dr R Newland 7-12-2 C Hammond
2 3P2F- ALNADAM 225 (P) D Skelton 9-12-0 H Skelton
3 1323- SHAKEM UP'ARRY 239 (T) B Pauling 8-11-13 Luca Morgan (3)
4 1213/ MAKE ME A BELIEVER 685 (W,T) D Pipe 7-11-13 F Gillard (3)
5 FUP-4 GLADIATEUR ALLEN 48 (CD) Mrs J Williams 6-11-9 D Noonan
6 110-2 REE OKKA 27 (T,BF) H Fry 6-11-8 S Bowen
7 /PP1- MAYPOLE CLASS 230 Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-8 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
8 114-0 NATIVE ROBIN 21 (P,T,D) J Scott 12-11-7 R Dingle
9 132-2 GALOP DE CHASSE 27 V Williams 6-11-3 C Deutsch
10 0401- TILE TAPPER 279 (D) Chris Honour 8-11-3 B Carver
11 14-PF EDE'IFFS ELTON 24 (P,T) R Walford 8-10-10 D Jacob

11-4 Ree Okka, 11-2 Galop De Chasse, 6-1 Shakem Up'arry, 8-1 Tile Tapper, Maypole Class, Alnadam, 10-1 Make Me A Believer, 14-1 Ede'iffs Elton.

3.10 Handicap Chase
(£10,130: 3m 7f) (11)

1 1120- DE YOUNG WARRIOR 258 (C) J Scott 9-12-2 T J O'Brien
2 1-145 TOMMIE BEAU 20 (B) Seamus Mullins 7-11-11 M G Nolan
3 5141- DON HERBAGER 294 (C) V Williams 8-11-6 C Deutsch
4 13-40 SILVER IN DISGUISE 20 (P,T,D) T Vaughan 8-11-6 A Johns
5 453-4 FAVORI DE SIVOLA 31 (P,T,C) Mrs J Williams 7-11-4 D Noonan
6 /63-1 ALMINAR 26 E Williams 9-11-4 A Wedge
7 4P-P0 BEATTHEBULLET 20 (P,C) R Curtis 8-11-3 B R Jones
8 1-002 LIGHT FLICKER 20 (P) R Potter 10-11-1 C Quinn (5)
9 33-43 SOME DETAIL 88 N Hawke 8-11-0 T Buckley (3)
10 -3460 ASK CORY 42 (B) K Woollacott 9-10-10 A P Heskin
11 F-PUP GENERATOR CITY 18 (P,T) I Williams 9-10-7 C Todd

3-1 Alminar, 7-2 Don Herbager, 5-1 Light Flicker, 13-2 De Young Warrior, 8-1 Favori De Sivola, 10-1 Some Detail, Silver In Disguise, 14-1 Tommie Beau.

3.45 NH Flat Race (£2,178: 2m 1f) (13)

1 BALA BROOK Joe Tizzard 4-11-0 F Gingell (7)
2 P- DELGANY BOBBY BLUE 237 D Skelton 4-11-0 D England
3 /533- HE'S MY SHADOW 334 (T) R L Llewellyn 5-11-0 C Ring (3)
4 IMPATIENT Jonjo O'Neill 4-11-0 Jonjo O'Neill Jr
5 INTHEWATERSIDE P Nicholls 4-11-0 A P Heskin
6 IRISH ED (T) Mitchell Hunt 4-11-0 J Best
7 MAX WOLF Mrs F M Shaw 5-11-0 D Noonan
8 RAPID RIVER Mrs S Gardner 4-11-0 Lucy Gardner
9 RIVERS CORNER Joe Tizzard 4-11-0 B J Powell
10 TOP KAP T Lacey 4-11-0 J J Burke
11 MY LADY PHOENIX J Scott 4-10-7 R Dingle
12 U-00 NATHAN WALKER 38 K Burke 4-10-7 T Bellamy
13 4-1 TAKE NO CHANCES 215 D Skelton 4-10-7 H Skelton

3-1 Take No Chances, 7-2 Inthewaterside, 9-2 Impatient, 5-1 Top Kap, 6-1 Rivers Corner, 10-1 Delgany Bobby Blue, 12-1 Bala Brook, 33-1 others.

Shishkin faces tough task on return

Rob Wright Racing Editor

The grade one Betfair Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown Park tomorrow promises to be one of the highlights of the jumps season with Shishkin, Greaneteen and Edwardstone among the six-strong field.

Shishkin beat subsequent Champion Chase winner Energumene in a thrilling renewal of the Clarence House Chase at Ascot in January but was then pulled up behind the same rival at the Cheltenham Festival in March.

Shishkin was found to be suffering from a bone condition after that defeat — his first over fences — but Nicky Henderson, his trainer, issued a positive bulletin yesterday, saying: "He looks fantastic and his schooling has been as brilliant as ever. He jumped ten fences yesterday. Nico [de Boinville, his jockey] has been really pleased with him."

Shishkin has been installed the even-money favourite by William Hill, with last year's winner, Greaneteen, at 15-8 and Arkle Trophy scorer Edwardstone rated an 11-2 chance.

"There seems to be a lot of confidence coming out of Ditcheat [where Greaneteen is trained by Paul Nicholls]," Henderson said. "He is a good horse. You have got to hope we have got the Shishkin that was at Ascot for that epic battle with Energumene last season. I'm hopeful but it will be a big test."

Sedgefield
Rob Wright

12.00 Piecederesistance **2.10** Jet Smart
12.30 East End Girl (nap) **2.45** Hidden Commander
1.00 Patient Dream **3.20** Longagoanfarbehind
1.35 Elleon

Going: good to soft — Sky Sports Racing

12.00 Maiden Hurdle (£4,901: 2m 1f) (8)

1 5 BERTIE'S WISH 13 J Candlish 4-11-4 Sean Quinlan
2 0 DANDY MAESTRO 22 R Spencer 4-11-4 B Bromley (7)
3 P/1-6 GLORY BRIDGE 34 (D) D McCain 6-11-4 T Gillard (3)
4 03-25 HERMES LE GRIS 32 W Greatrex 5-11-4 H Brooke
5 00-23 INDIAN SUNBIRD 69 Sara Ender 5-11-4 J Hamilton
6 34-3 PIECEDERESISTANCE 22 M Hammond 4-11-4 Miss Becky Smith
7 0U SOMETHING GOLDEN 8 (H) I Jardine 6-11-4 C O'Farrell
8 6- SAWPIT SAMANTHA 252 (BF) S Drinkwater 4-10-11 R T Dunne

2-1 Piecederesistance, 11-4 Hermes Le Gris, 13-2 Glory Bridge, 8-1 others.

12.30 Handicap Hurdle (£8,931: 2m 4f) (7)

1 313-2 BETTY BALOO 22 (BF) T Easterby 6-12-0 J Hamilton
2 /2F-5 WILL VICTORY 32 (T) H Fry 6-12-0 B Bromley (7)
3 1223- MINELLADESTINATION 225 D McCain 5-11-13 T Gillard (3)
4 1P0-0 THE PLAYER QUEEN 20 (D) R Dobbin 6-11-12 Craig Nichol
5 41 EAST END GIRL 24 L Wadham 5-11-7 Sean Quinlan
6 444 REGAL RENAISSANCE 29 H Daly 4-11-0 R Patrick
7 3-452 SPOT ON SOPH 14 (T,BF) S England 6-10-3 J England

5-2 East End Girl, 11-4 Betty Baloo, 9-2 Minelladestination, 13-2 others.

1.00 Handicap Hurdle (£4,684: 2m 1f) (11)

1 3-205 SAMBEZI 9 (P,T) O Signy 6-12-0 Mr J Andrews (3)
2 -4365 ASTROMAN 29 M Walford 5-11-9 J Hamilton
3 03-32 PATIENT DREAM F143 (T) D McCain 4-11-9 P J Kavanagh (5)
4 3/5-4 QUOTELINE DIRECT F46 (H) M Hammond 9-11-9 Miss Becky Smith
5 160P- MONJULES 306 (T) H Fry 4-11-7 L Murtagh (3)
6 0-346 BUTO 141 (T) M Hammond 5-11-2 J Thompson (10)
7 56P35 HAVEYOUGOTMYMONEY 41 Paul Robson 4-11-2 C Bewley
8 /506- HILDENLEY F16 (T) T Easterby 5-11-0 N Moscrop
9 4P502 STRONG TEAM 22 (P,CD) C Grant 9-10-4 T Willmott (3)
10 -2500 MADEEH F56 (T) P Kirby 6-10-2 C O'Farrell
11 300-0 SNOWED IN 206 (P,CD) Lizzie Quinlan 13-10-2 Sean Quinlan

5-2 Patient Dream, 9-2 Monjules, 13-2 Strong Team, Hildenley, 8-1 Quoteline Direct, 10-1 Sambezi, Buto, 14-1 Haveyougotmymoney, Astroman.

1.35 Handicap Chase (£4,792: 3m 3f) (8)

1 3PFP- ROCCOWITHLOVE 266 (P) J E Foster 8-12-0 S Coltherd
2 24-45 MORNINGSIDE 41 S Forster 9-11-7 L Murtagh (3)
3 5P-P3 SKYHILL 15 (T,C) Mrs A C Hamilton 9-11-2 J Hamilton
4 U60-3 ELLEON 15 S England 7-10-12 J England
5 -PP00 TO THE LIMIT 10 (B) W Coltherd 7-10-9 Sean Quinlan
6 3PP-P SON OF OZ 26 (V) R Stephens 5-10-5 Sean Houlihan
7 45-13 KILDRUM 28 (P) M Hammond 9-10-3 Emma Smith-Chaston (3)
8 P65-P CHAIN SMOKER 44 (P) Georgie Howell 9-10-2 Tabitha Worsley (3)

2-1 Kildrum, 4-1 Skyhill, 5-1 Morningside, Elleon, 7-1 Roccowithlove, 8-1 others.

2.10 Novices' Hurdle (£4,901: 2m 4f) (5)

1 PP-31 ATTENTION ALL 22 (D) R Menzies 4-11-7 N Moscrop
2 6-252 DECORATED 24 O Signy 4-11-0 H Brooke
3 2-5 JET SMART 14 D Pipe 4-11-0 P Armson (3)
4 666 SHIR I DONT KNOW 14 I Jardine 5-11-0 C O'Farrell
5 1-F60 NAIROBI GIRL 28 F Murtagh 6-10-7 L Murtagh (3)

Evens Jet Smart, 5-2 Decorated, 5-1 Attention All, 20-1 Shir I Dont Know, 50-1 Nairobi Girl.

2.45 Handicap Chase (£10,140: 2m 5f) (7)

1 3-051 BARON DE MIDLETON 6 (B) B Ellison 9-12-2(7ex) B Bromley (7)
2 P523U JELSKI 22 (P) J Moffatt 8-12-0 Charlotte Jones (3)
3 P2-06 ROAD WARRIOR 22 (T,V,CD) R Menzies 8-11-13 P Coleman
4 13513 HIDDEN COMMANDER 15 (T,D) W Coltherd 7-11-10 S Coltherd
5 20604 MISTER BELLS 22 M Hammond 8-11-6 Emma Smith-Chaston (3)
6 55-40 CONTRE ORDRE 20 M Hammond 4-11-1 C O'Farrell
7 141-4 ASHJAN 187 (P,T,CD) S Forster 9-10-11 L Murtagh (3)

15-8 Baron De Midleton, 4-1 Hidden Commander, 9-2 Ashjan, 13-2 Jelski, 7-1 Mister Bells, 10-1 Road Warrior, 14-1 Contre Ordre.

Blinkered first time:
Exeter 3.10 Tommie Beau.
Sedgefield 1.35 Son Of Oz. 2.45 Road Warrior.

3.20 NH Flat Race (£2,614: 2m 1f) (8)

1 0/0 BEN TEN 14 B Ellison 6-11-0 B Bromley (7)
2 3 BOOMSLANG 14 R Menzies 5-11-0 N Moscrop
3 0- DERWENT DEALER 340 D Brooke 6-11-0 H Brooke
4 FOREVA ALFIE R Dobbin 4-11-0 Craig Nichol
5 52 JUDICIAL REVIEW 188 J Moffatt 4-11-0 Charlotte Jones (3)
6 LONGAGOANFARBEHIND (H) B Cawley (Ire) 5-11-0 K Brogan
7 4- PARSONS STONE 515 R Stephens 5-11-0 Sean Houlihan
8 PP THE MIDNIGHT RULE 47 (T) D McCain 5-11-0 P J Kavanagh (5)

9-4 Boomslang, 3-1 Longagoanfarbehind, 4-1 Judicial Review, 11-2 Foreva Alfie, 12-1 Parsons Stone, The Midnight Rule, 20-1 Ben Ten, Derwent Dealer.

Newcastle
Rob Wright

3.03 Reclaim Victory **5.45** Logo Hunter
3.38 Project Black **6.15** Ramon Di Loria
4.10 Mistamac **6.45** Turbo Command
4.45 Spirit Of Nguru **7.15** Blazing Son
5.15 Walking On Clouds

Going: standard to slow — Sky Sports Racing
Draw: no advantage

3.03 Handicap (£3,726: 1m) (14)

1 (10) 32643 PERFECT SWISS 31 (CD) T Easterby 6-9-12 D Allan
2 (1) 51150 PALLAS LORD 198 (CD) D Whillans 4-9-11 Ryan Sexton (3)
3 (7) 51320 ELSAAB 21 (B) Miss A Murphy 3-9-10 K Stott
4 (11) 21660 GYPSY WHISPER 46 (D) S Dixon 5-9-9 K O'Neill
5 (9) 10306 RON O 39 (D) R Craggs 4-9-9 T Eaves
6 (12) 40135 REVOQUABLE 21 (D) T Easterby 3-9-8 D Fentiman
7 (5) 55151 WHATWOULDYOUKNOW 17 (P,CD) N Tinkler 7-9-8 F McManoman
8 (14) 5-060 TRICKY BUSINESS 46 (C) K Dalgleish 3-9-8 B Garritty
9 (13) -0106 POSSIBLE AMBITION 267 (B,CD) J J Quinn 4-9-7 J Hart
10 (6) 0422- MRS DIBBLE 433 (BF) Miss L Perratt 4-9-0 Mark Winn (5)
11 (4) 33462 RECLAIM VICTORY 17 (P,CD) B Ellison 5-9-0 B Robinson
12 (2) 40010 MINTNTHAT 17 (P,CD) I Jardine 3-9-0 A Mullen
13 (3) 55506 ODD SOCKS HAVANA 128 (T,CD) R Menzies 4-9-0 Paula Muir (3)
14 (8) 06600 VALORANT 17 (H) S Dixon 4-8-13 Elisha Whittington (5)

4-1 Whatwouldyouknow, 5-1 Reclaim Victory, Perfect Swiss, 8-1 Revoquable, Mrs Dibble, 10-1 Pallas Lord, 12-1 Tricky Business, Odd Socks Havana.

3.38 Novice Stakes
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (10)

1 (1) 31 PROJECT BLACK 39 (D) B Smart 9-11 H Shaw
2 (3) 0 KATAR 153 Craig Lidster 9-4 P Mulrennan
3 (10) 00 STORMINGHULL 17 N Tinkler 9-4 R Scott
4 (4) AL BIDDA K R Burke 9-2 C Lee
5 (7) ALL WHITE MATE G Tuer 9-2 S James
6 (9) 6 CAPTAIN DANDY 46 R Fahey 9-2 Oisin Orr
7 (5) 043 TASEVER 27 T Easterby 9-2 D Allan
8 (2) 0 STELIOS 21 Phillip Makin 9-0 S Gray
9 (6) 3 FIRST OF MAY 39 J Fanshawe 8-13 D Muscutt
10 (8) 6 INSTINCT 17 (H) L Mullaney 8-13 C Hardie

11-4 First Of May, 7-2 Project Black, 4-1 Tasever, 5-1 Al Bidda, 10-1 Captain Dandy, All White Mate, 14-1 Stelios, 25-1 Storminghull, Instinct, 50-1 Katar.

4.10 Novice Stakes
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (10)

1 (1) 03 DE BRUYNE 17 E Walker 9-7 R Coakley
2 (10) 3 MISTAMAC 196 J J Quinn 9-7 J Hart
3 (9) 60 SIR ARTHUR'S BOY 21 Mrs A Duffield 9-7 P Mulrennan
4 (8) 2 MACHO MANIA 14 H Palmer 9-5 P J McDonald
5 (3) SUNFYRE B Ellison 9-5 B Robinson
6 (5) JAHIDIN K R Burke 9-3 C Lee
7 (7) HEARTLANDER G Boughey 9-2 K Stott
8 (4) 30 DEEPDALE 45 E Bethell 9-0 R Scott
9 (6) TILT AT WINDMILLS K R Burke 9-0 S James
10 (2) 0 TERRITORIAL WATERS 17 R Fell 8-12 J Peate (5)

15-8 Macho Mania, 3-1 Heartlander, 5-1 De Bruyne, 13-2 Mistamac, 10-1 Jahidin, 12-1 Tilt At Windmills, 14-1 Deepdale, 16-1 Sunfyre.

4.45 Handicap (£13,085: 7f) (10)

1 (1) 10051 DOCUMENTING 18 (D) K Frost 9-9-9 J Mitchell
2 (4) 60135 FIRST FOLIO 23 J Ferguson 4-9-8 D Muscutt
3 (6) 35204 BASS PLAYER 65 (D) Tom Clover 3-9-8 P J McDonald
4 (5) 23106 HAFEET ALAIN 20 (D) E Walker 6-9-3 S Osborne
5 (7) 30605 AZANO 13 (T,D) D O'Meara 6-9-1 Jason Watson
6 (9) 01046 RAATEA 53 (H,C) J Camacho 5-8-12 G Lee
7 (3) -2405 SPIRIT OF NGURU 63 (D) W Haggas 3-8-10 C Fallon
8 (2) 10006 THE TURPINATOR 58 (BF,D) G Tuer 5-8-9 S James
9 (8) 35156 LARADO 16 (B,D) M Appleby 4-8-5 T Ladd
10 (10) 03541 ZIP 27 (V,CD) R Fahey 6-8-4 T Heard (3)

3-1 Documenting, 5-1 Spirit Of Nguru, Zip, 7-1 First Folio, 8-1 The Turpinator, 10-1 Raatea, Larado, 12-1 Hafeet Alain, Bass Player, 20-1 Azano.

5.15 Handicap (£3,726: 7f) (14)

1 (3) -0500 LIKE A LION 43 (P,D) T Easterby 3-9-9 D Allan
2 (14) 00005 HOMER STOKES 43 (D) D & N Barron 4-9-9 J Hart
3 (9) 233-0 SEESAWING 330 (BF) I Furtado 5-9-7 M Crehan (3)
4 (10) 523 VICTORIA FALLS 18 (BF) H Palmer 3-9-7 P J McDonald
5 (7) 45242 MACHO PRIDE 17 (C) B Haslam 4-9-6 H Shaw
6 (12) 00111 BOBBY JOE LEG 20 (B,CD) R Carr 8-9-5 JP Sullivan
7 (1) 44452 WALKING ON CLOUDS 28 G Tuer 3-9-4 S James
8 (4) 03343 MUMCAT 21 (H,D) J Coward 3-9-4 Joanna Mason
9 (2) 11605 AQUAMAS 39 (B,D) M Dods 4-9-3 O Stammers (3)
10 (5) 21230 WILLING TO PLEASE 45 (D) P Kirby 5-9-2 K Stott
11 (8) 11/00 DEOLALI 17 (P,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 8-8-13 S Gray
12 (13) 02305 GISELLES IZZY 21 I Jardine 3-8-13 A Mullen
13 (11) 30050 JEMS BOND 39 (P,CD) A Brown 5-8-11 C Hardie
14 (6) 60506 FYLINGDALE 21 T Easterby 3-8-10 D Fentiman

9-2 Macho Pride, 5-1 Victoria Falls, 6-1 Bobby Joe Leg, 13-2 Walking On Clouds, 7-1 Seesawing, 8-1 Mumcat, 12-1 Homer Stokes, Giselles Izzy, Aquamas.

5.45 Conditions Stakes (£15,702: 5f) (9)

1 (1) 40103 ART POWER 27 (BF,C,D) T Easterby 5-9-7 D Allan
2 (2) 40143 ALLIGATOR ALLEY 16 (T,D) D O'Meara 5-9-2 Jason Watson
3 (9) 40003 EXALTED ANGEL 20 (D) K R Burke 6-9-2 C Lee
4 (8) 52101 FINE WINE 16 (B,CD) S Dixon 5-9-2 K O'Neill
5 (4) 1-146 KABOO 231 (T,CD) K R Burke 3-9-2 S James
6 (6) 02022 LOGO HUNTER 42 (T,D) M J Browne (Ire) 4-9-2 J A Hefferan
7 (5) 02-03 MOSS GILL 171 (D) E Bethell 6-9-2 P J McDonald
8 (3) -0500 MOTAGALLY 48 (B,D) S Dixon 6-9-2 D Swift
9 (7) 10050 TONE THE BARONE 146 (T,D) S C Williams 6-9-2 D Muscutt

15-8 Art Power, 100-30 Logo Hunter, 6-1 Tone The Barone, Moss Gill, 10-1 Exalted Angel, Fine Wine, 16-1 Kaboo, 20-1 Alligator Alley, 33-1 Motagally.

6.15 Handicap (£7,560: 6f) (13)

1 (3) 22531 SHALLOW HAL 15 (CD) K R Burke 6-9-10 S Feilden (7)
2 (1) 01005 ABOLISH 18 (P,D) I Jardine 6-9-9 A Mullen
3 (4) 1114- NOISY NIGHT 435 (D) H & R Charlton 3-9-7 Rossa Ryan
4 (12) 00011 EMBOUR 20 (B,CD) R Carr 7-9-1 JP Sullivan
5 (7) 01500 STRAITS OF MOYLE 69 (D) R Fahey 3-9-0 Oisin Orr
6 (9) 35060 COUNT D'ORSAY 16 T Easterby 6-9-0 D Allan
7 (5) 55251 BALLYCONNEELY BAY 108 (D) J Camacho 4-8-13 G Lee
8 (2) 01006 BALLYARE 21 (P,T,C,D) L Russell 5-8-12 S Gray
9 (8) 60213 BELLAGIO MAN 17 (P,CD) A Brittain 4-8-11 C Hardie
10 (11) 20600 WAR IN HEAVEN 27 (P,D) M Appleby 3-8-10 A Rawlinson
11 (6) 30103 RAMON DI LORIA 21 (C,D) Ewan Whillans 4-8-8 T Eaves
12 (13) 00120 CAPTAIN'S BAR 16 (B,D) S Dixon 3-8-5 K O'Neill
13 (10) 03212 POCKLEY 3 (B,BF,CD) Miss L Perratt 4-8-4 F Norton

4-1 Shallow Hal, 9-2 Embour, 6-1 Pockley, 13-2 Bellagio Man, 7-1 Noisy Night, 8-1 Ballyconneely Bay, 10-1 Ramon Di Loria, 14-1 War In Heaven, Ballyare.

6.45 Handicap (Div I: £3,726: 6f) (14)

1 (10) 05540 BARNEYS GIFT 16 (B) P Kirby 3-9-9 K Stott
2 (2) 52050 KING OF SPEED 28 M Loughnane 3-9-9 Billy Loughnane (7)
3 (11) 56110 TERUNTUM STAR 46 (P,D) S Dixon 10-9-9 D Swift
4 (1) 03001 AL SUIL EILE 281 (D) S A Harris 6-9-8 J Fisher (5)
5 (13) -6006 AIKIDO 136 (D) Ewan Whillans 4-9-7 R Scott
6 (5) 00001 AFTER JOHN 28 (CD) I Jardine 6-9-7 A Mullen
7 (12) 22356 DEPUTISE 279 (BF,CD) M Wigham 6-9-6 F Norton (7)
8 (4) 01150 WEE FAT MAC 17 (CD) I Jardine 3-9-5 Poppy Wilson (7)
9 (3) 44304 STALLONE 39 (B,D) M Dods 6-9-4 O Stammers (3)
10 (14) 24240 ISCHIA 16 J Fanshawe 3-9-4 D Muscutt
11 (7) 11050 HURSTWOOD 28 (CD) P Niven 5-9-4 P Mulrennan
12 (9) 60002 TURBO COMMAND 31 Mrs A C Hamilton 5-9-1 G Lee
13 (6) -0000 KITTYBREWSTER 31 (E) Suzzanne France 3-8-10 T Eaves
14 (8) U0052 KRAKEN POWER 31 (D) J Goldie 4-8-9 Amie Waugh (5)

9-2 After John, 11-2 Al Suil Eile, 6-1 Turbo Command, Kraken Power, 13-2 Deputise, 8-1 Wee Fat Mac, 10-1 Stallone, 12-1 Teruntum Star.

7.15 Handicap (Div II: £3,726: 6f) (14)

1 (1) 321 BENEFICIARY 16 K R Burke 3-9-9 S James
2 (6) 00003 HURAIZ 28 (P,T,CD) Ewan Whillans 5-9-9 P J McDonald
3 (2) 03063 CLAIM THE STARS 21 (T) T Easterby 3-9-9 D Allan
4 (7) 16352 COAXING 31 D & N Barron 3-9-8 J Hart
5 (14) 33626 HIGHJACKED 39 (D) J J Davies 6-9-7 Amie Waugh (5)
6 (9) 00050 POET 21 (P,D) S Dixon 3-9-7 K O'Neill
7 (12) 44504 WHITEANDBLUE 18 G Tuer 3-9-5 O Stammers (3)
8 (10) 33421 BLAZING SON 39 (D) B Smart 4-9-5 Mark Winn (5)
9 (11) -0534 LORY 29 (H) J Camacho 5-9-4 G Lee
10 (13) 20460 IMPRESSOR 31 (H,D) Phillip Makin 5-9-4 R Scott
11 (5) 35626 BASHOLO 18 Mrs Stella Barclay 3-9-3 S Gray
12 (8) 00023 ROSE BANDIT 21 (P,D) I Jardine 5-9-0 A Mullen
13 (3) 60012 CATHERINE CHROI 31 (V,CD) I Jardine 4-8-10 C Lee
14 (4) 00632 BILLIAN 38 (BF) P Kirby 4-8-9 T Eaves

11-2 Beneficiary, 6-1 Blazing Son, 13-2 Rose Bandit, 7-1 Coaxing, 8-1 Billian, Catherine Chroi, 10-1 Claim The Stars, Huraiz.

Yesterday's racing results

Leicester

Going: good to soft (good places); home straight soft, good to soft places

12.15 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Artemis Kimbo** (Harry Skelton, 7-1); 2, Houi Cherie (6-5 fav); 3, Police Academy (18-1). 7 ran. 7l, ½l. D Skelton.

12.47 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Apple Rock** (Luca Morgan, 5-4 fav); 2, Iron Horse (22-1); 3, Kotmask (15-8). 8 ran. 6½l, 2l. B Pauling.

1.17 (2m 6f 151yd ch) 1, **Clear On Top** (J J Burke, 13-8); 2, On The Bandwagon (3-1); 3, Faitque De L'Isle (6-4 fav). 4 ran. 4¾l, 5½l. T R George.

1.47 (1m 7f 113yd hdle) 1, **Mount Tempest** (Harry Skelton, 9-2); 2, Georges Saint (8-13 fav); 3, Imperial Bede (25-1). 7 ran. NR: Howlingmadmurdock. ½l, 3¾l. D Skelton.

2.17 (1m 7f 113yd hdle) 1, **Dollar Bae** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 5-4 fav); 2, Born To Please (25-1); 3, Toughasoldboots (22-1). 8 ran. 4¼l, 7½l. Jonjo O'Neill.

2.47 (1m 7f 201yd ch) 1, **Obey The Rules** (B S Hughes, 11-4); 2, Legendary Rhythm (11-10 fav); 3, Uncle O (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Zuckerberg. 2¾l, 4½l. D McCain Jnr.

3.17 (1m 7f 113yd hdle) 1, **Colonial Empire** (Alan Johns, 7-5); 2, Esme Shelby (20-1); 3, Ramo (10-11 fav). 4 ran. NR: Grandee. 2¾l, 16l. Tim Vaughan.

Placepot: £29.30. **Quadpot:** £15.10.

Market Rasen

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.07 (2m 125yd hdle) 1, **Ilanz** (Jamie Brace, 3-1); 2, Will Sting (4-1); 3, Natty Night (11-4 jt-fav). 7 ran. 4½l, 4l. M F Harris.

12.40 (2m 125yd hdle) 1, **Casi Crudo** (Kielan Woods, 11-4); 2, Morandi Second (11-4); 3, Apologise (7-4 fav). 7 ran. 11l, 36l. A M Hales.

1.10 (2m 4f 139yd hdle) 1, **Chianti Classico** (David Bass, 5-6 fav); 2, Park Hill Dancer (11-10); 3, Old Painless (22-1). 6 ran. 8½l, 7½l. K C Bailey.

1.40 (2m 7f 16yd hdle) 1, **Oliver's Island** (Aaron Anderson, 5-1); 2, Lucky Bounce (2-1 fav); 3, Dora De Janeiro (17-2). 12 ran. Nk, 2l. J Bedi.

2.10 (2m 3f 34yd ch) 1, **Fazayte** (Caoilin Quinn, 85-40); 2, Fox's Socks (9-2); 3, Getabuck (18-1). 7 ran. ½l, sh hd. R Potter.

2.40 (2m 7f 191yd ch) 1, **Ballinslea Bridge** (Ellis Collier, 12-1); 2, Future Benefits (Evens fav); 3, Shanbally Rose (6-1). 8 ran. 2¾l, 11l. Harriet Dickin.

3.10 (2m 125yd Flat) 1, **Resplendent Grey** (S Bowen, 10-3); 2, Trip Switch (12-1); 3, Donnacha (17-2). 10 ran. 8½l, 1¼l. O Murphy.

Placepot: £26.70. **Quadpot:** £4.20.

Wincanton

Going: good to soft (good in places)

12.25 (2m 4f 35yd ch) 1, **Harlem Soul** (Mr Gearoid Harney, 25-1); 2, Dock Road (11-2); 3, Hiway One O Three (5-4 fav). 8 ran. 5½l, 1¼l. Syd Hosie.

12.55 (2m 5f 82yd hdle) 1, **Annie Magic** (Rex Dingle, 9-4); 2, Lime Avenue (8-13 fav); 3, Micronormous (5-1). 8 ran. 9l, 2l. J Scott.

1.25 (3m 1f 30yd ch) 1, **Certainly Red** (M Goldstein, 4-1); 2, Midnight Glance (9-4 fav); 3, Milanford (16-1). 8 ran. 17l, nk. Mrs L Richards.

1.55 (3m 150yd hdle) 1, **Shutupshirley** (Harry Kimber, Evens fav); 2, The Wise Traveller (11-2); 3, Harry's Hottie (14-1). 13 ran. 1¼l, 4¾l. R Walford.

2.25 (3m 2f 162yd ch) 1, **Born At Midnight** (Harry Kimber, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Findusatgorcombe (7-2); 3, Dorado Dollar (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Boagrius. 4½l, 27l. W G M Turner.

2.55 (1m 7f 50yd hdle) 1, **Filey Bay** (R P McLernon, 8-13 fav); 2, Shallow River (3-1); 3, Midnight Ginger (18-1). 10 ran. NR: On To Victory, Toronto. 1l, 1½l. E Mullins.

3.25 (1m 7f 50yd Flat) 1, **Meatloaf** (H Cobden, 5-4 fav); 2, Mr Mackay (15-2); 3, Armathia (10-1). 12 ran. 2¾l, 1¾l. P F Nicholls.

Placepot: £7.20. **Quadpot:** £3.90.

Chelmsford

Going: standard

4.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Bit Harsh** (Rossa Ryan, 22-1); 2, Kardinya (7-1); 3, Mc'ted (4-1). 14 ran. 1¾l, nk. A King.

5.00 (1m 2f) 1, **Capital Theory** (W Buick, 2-7 fav); 2, Mayfair Gold (100-30); 3, Damascus Finish (20-1). 7 ran. 4¾l, 3l. C & M Johnston.

5.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Tarbaan** (Kevin Stott, 8-1); 2, Idee Fixee (2-1 fav); 3, Diamond Ranger (6-1). 9 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. Miss A Murphy.

6.00 (7f) 1, **Lord Rapscallion** (Jason Hart, 9-2 fav); 2, Granary Queen (11-2); 3, Buckshaw Village (12-1). 14 ran. NR: Dreams Of Thunder, Meng Tian. Sh hd, 1½l. S C Williams.

6.30 (6f) 1, **Araifjan** (T Eaves, 7-4 fav); 2, Blackjack (100-30); 3, Elegant Ellen (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Our Louise. Nk, 1l. M Herrington.

7.00 (6f) 1, **Alafdhal** (Kevin Stott, 11-8 fav); 2, Admirable Lad (3-1); 3, El Royale (9-1). 9 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. P S McEntee.

7.30 (5f) 1, **La Roca Del Fuego** (Rose Dawes, 6-1); 2, Yimou (4-1); 3, Bang On The Bell (11-1). 10 ran. NR: Expert Opinion. 1l, hd. G Deacon.

8.00 (5f) 1, **Miss Belladonna** (Darragh Keenan, 17-2); 2, Spanish Angel (4-1); 3, Embla (14-1). 12 ran. Nk, 1l. D Shaw.

8.30 (5f) 1, **Michaela's Boy** (Jason Hart, 9-4 fav); 2, Rocking Ends (14-1); 3, Grace Angel (5-2). 8 ran. NR: Tephi. 2¼l, ½l. M Appleby.

Jackpot: £10,000.00 — part won. Pool of £4,010.30 carried forward to Sandown today.

Placepot: £17.30. **Quadpot:** £4.60.

Jones: I feel sad for critic Woodward

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

Eddie Jones says he "feels sad" for his staunchest critic, Sir Clive Woodward, as he fights to keep his job as England head coach.

Jones is under review by the RFU after a woeful year of results in which his side have won five Tests in 12. The governing body gave itself two weeks to back or sack the 62-year-old Australian after the 27-13 defeat by South Africa and has convened its anonymous panel to make a final decision.

There is a growing feeling that Jones is on thin ice, with the RFU chief executive Bill Sweeney saying last Sunday that he was "really disappointed" with England performances this autumn.

The RFU will have to pay more than £1 million to oust Jones and his coaching team, settling his £750,000-a-year deal plus the salaries of his assistants. That number will balloon if they move quickly to hire a top new coach such as Warren Gatland, stealing him away from Wales, who are in pursuit of their former coach to replace Wayne Pivac.

Woodward, England's World Cup-winning coach from 2003, has consistently criticised Jones in his column for The Daily Mail. This week he wrote that Jones should be sacked if England lose to Scotland in their next match, which begins the 2023 Six Nations.

Jones, however, remains convinced that he is the man to lead England to the World Cup next year despite a poor 2022, and rounded on Woodward.

"I feel sad for him," he said, speaking to Men's Health magazine. "If that is the best thing he has to do in his life, then he hasn't a lot to do."

Jones said that when he leaves the England job after the World Cup he will not speak out about other coaches. "I'm going to make sure that I don't," he said. "There's another way. You don't need to do it. Rod Macqueen, Steve Hansen — great coaches. They just get on with the rest of their lives. When you've had your turn, you give it to someone else."

Asked how he copes with public pressure, Jones said: "I push it to one side. You have to be in the game to understand this because coaching changes so much.

"There are extremes, and you have to keep a moderated view. Life is a continuum with best to worst at the extremes, and you've just got to keep bubbling on."

Jones was speaking to Men's Health "Talking Heads" columnist Alastair Campbell, the former Labour Party communications guru, a few weeks ago for an article that has now been published on the magazine's website. In it Jones explains why he thinks England are in good shape for the World Cup.

"I'm 62 now and I think in pure coaching terms I am coaching better than I ever have," he said. "Results aren't always perfect, but I'm happy with how I have been coaching.

"If this was the Cheltenham Gold Cup, there's a pack of four out front — France, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand — and we are fifth, right behind them, right on the rails.

"A good position, provided we keep improving. Australia are there or thereabouts with us. It's going to be the closest World Cup ever. France and Ireland are the in-form teams right now, but things will change."

Jones also confirmed he will not be looking to stay with England after 2023, if he makes it that far. He has been linked to a director of rugby role with Australia, where he coached in the 2000s, and to a coaching role with the United States up to their home World Cup in 2031.

"I only came for four years," he said. "Then we lost the World Cup final in 2019 — I felt I could still contribute, so did the RFU, so we agreed another four years. I knew it would be difficult because we would have to change the team. I've enjoyed it, it's a great position, but eight years with the same country, that's enough. I've enjoyed England a lot, it was a bit of a rescue job at the start, now rebuilding, and I am confident I will leave things in good shape."

Cowan-Dickie to join Montpellier as exodus to France continues

Luke Cowan-Dickie will join Montpellier after the 2023 World Cup thus ending, at least temporarily, his England career (Will Kelleher writes).

The Exeter Chiefs hooker, 29, is the latest frontline England player to choose French club rugby over his Test career as the salary cap squeeze continues to bite the Gallagher Premiership. He will join his Exeter team-mate Sam Simmonds, the England No 8, at the Top 14 champions next season.

The Times understands that Cowan-Dickie has signed a long-term contract with Montpellier, where he will earn a huge wage of more than £300,000 a year after tax. It is a deal that blew Exeter's offer out of the water. The Premiership salary cap is £5 million, having come down from £6.4 million, leaving clubs little room for manoeuvre. It is set to return to its old level in the 2024-25 season, after a club vote.

Montpellier presently have the former Sale Sharks and Worcester Warriors hooker Curtis Langdon on a temporary deal, and Cowan-Dickie will replace him next year, with Langdon looking to return home. Northampton Saints are a likely destination for him.

While in France, Cowan-Dickie will not be available for England. The RFU rules mean that players who sign for non-English clubs cannot represent the national team except in "exceptional circumstances".

That clause has been invoked this year for players made redundant by Wasps and Worcester who have been forced to take deals abroad, such as the flanker Jack Willis, who is now at Toulouse on a short-term deal. That loophole will be closed once the World Cup concludes, which means Cowan-Dickie and Simmonds have decided to halt their England careers. It is a worrying development for Exeter, the Premiership and English system to see top-line British & Irish Lions players moving to France at the peak of their careers.

Simmonds will be 29 by the time he makes the move to France, and Cowan-Dickie 30. Their Exeter team-mates Dave Ewers, 32, and Jack Nowell, 29, have not yet committed to the club. It is understood Nowell is looking at offers in France and Japan after the World Cup. Rob Baxter, the Chiefs director of rugby, lost the locks Jonny Hill and Sam Skinner, to Sale Sharks and Edinburgh respectively, in the summer.

Baxter is sanguine about his top players leaving, saying it is a reality of creating a winning team.

"Good teams are cyclical," he said. "I'm not concerned about players leaving. Can you expect, especially with a reduction of the salary cap, guys to start out as young players, some from our academy, and quite a few from the Championship, to stay



Joyless coach must leave to set his playmakers free

Stuart Barnes



When the RFU's faceless panel meets to consider the future of Eddie Jones, his fate could be decided by analysis of the last ten minutes of the match with the All Blacks and the opening ten against South Africa.

The undoubted highlight of England's autumn was that crazed finale against New Zealand. They tore up the playbook and produced a level and pace of attacking rugby not witnessed until then — an urgency that would be missing a week later against South Africa. Jones's emissary on the field, Owen Farrell, was no more than an attendant figure as Marcus Smith sprinted towards the All Blacks gainline with an edge unseen previously against Argentina, Japan and, until the 72nd minute, the Kiwis.

Farrell, the captain, was peripheral to the action, hobbling with an ankle injury. Henry Slade, who had been summarily dismissed by the England head coach from the initial November squad, came off the bench and added his elegant, defence-splitting skills. Twickenham, moribund for much of the month, roared back into life as England, 25-6 down, scored one, then another and then an almost miraculous third try to conjure a draw from the ashes of an abject display.

Desperate for so much of November, these dying moments of the match were a different sort of "desperate". A desperation born not of ineptitude but a blind panic in which caution was thrown to Twickenham's too often idiotic wind that can swirl around the stadium.

This "desperate" was an emotion created by the players on the pitch; not the pre-meditated game plan that is devouring England, the team, and its individuals. The revival had nothing to do with the management and everything to do with the players. The pace at which Smith and his team-mates performed hadn't been seen at any other time last month and, sadly, wasn't to be seen again.

A week later the Springboks gradually began to dominate the set piece. It is not easy to produce tries off the back foot but the opening ten minutes or so of last month's finale was, in its own way, as telling as the thrilling denouement against the All Blacks. It read as an indictment of Jones.

Smith finished the third game playing like the fly half who ignites Harlequins. Yet against South Africa it was as though someone else was wearing the England No 10 jersey. The best fly halves have a propensity for mixing and matching their game in the early stages. A pass, a run, a cross-kick and a chip behind the onrushing midfield. They try to keep the defence guessing because an uncertain defence is a vulnerable one. This is how Smith plays for his club.

But for his country? From the opening minutes, he kicked, kicked and kicked again. Just to make sure we all knew the general idea, he even kicked into the same part of the pitch between the wisp of 5ft 8in wing, Kurt-Lee Arendse and full back Willie le Roux. England's strategists had a plan to exploit the wing's lack of height and get to Le Roux, one of South Africa's key decision-makers. There were two things wrong with the strategy: it was obvious to all, and the execution was dreadful.

England handed the ball and the initiative to the Springboks from the start. The desperation that gave birth to the comeback against New Zealand was nowhere to be seen. Eddie's game plan had taken control again and it was the same pre-match planning that malfunctioned against Argentina and the All Blacks.

It isn't that the Harlequins fly half cannot make the step up from club to country. He can, but only if he is

BRADLEY COLLYER/PA



Cowan-Dickie has signed a deal with Montpellier, where he will join his Exeter Chiefs team-mate Simmonds, inset left

together? We've always been around a bit of a progressive group, but that group that grew over ten years achieved an awful lot. They have won trophies, gained international caps, and then what you look for changes. We've got to accept that's life.

"I said to the guys this week, 'Don't go looking around wondering what's happening — I like you all living your dreams and getting contracts you want and doing what you like as long as while you're here you're working as hard as you can to achieve those things for everybody. If we work hard for it we'll be successful, you'll be successful and everyone can be happy.'

"I don't think it's all a shame, it's the way it should be. I said to the guys, 'None of you will play your whole life for Exeter Chiefs — at some stage it'll end. All you've got to do is maximise your time while you're here.'

"That's what we've always done, and has been our mantra before, and has to continue."

While Baxter believes the RFU should be concerned about this player exodus he does not feel the rule preventing players from representing England when overseas should be relaxed.

"It's become more of an England issue than a club issue now," he said. "We are held by the salary cap, the state of the game and finances currently.

"The reality is there is not much more we can do. If anybody is going to take charge of it, it probably does need to be the national body. The reality is there will be players held in the Premiership who have ambitions to play for England.

"Don't forget things will change as the financial environment changes. It has before. We've got to be careful not to be caught in this real negative spiral we are in at the minute.

"Next year is the last year of the £5 million cap, and after that I know there will be an awful lot of clubs — we'll be the same — who will spend what we can afford."

Joe Marchant, the Harlequins centre, 26, will join Stade Français in 2023 too, and a raft of others moved to France in the wake of the Wasps saga. Dan Robson went to Pau, Brad Shields joined Perpignan, Tom Willis is at Bordeaux Bègles, where Gabriel Oghre will join him after a brief stint at Leicester Tigers, and Paolo Odogwu joined Stade Français.

● Henry Arundell is a doubt for next year's Six Nations after undergoing surgery on a foot injury.

The England and London Irish wing was operated on this Monday, and now will wear a protective boot for six weeks.

England's opener to the Six Nations is at home to Scotland on February 4.

"He had surgery the other day so he is going to be out for quite a number of weeks now," Arundell's director of rugby, Declan Kidney, said.

"The foot injury he got prior to the November series didn't respond in the way that we hoped, so unfortunately it was necessary for him to go in for surgery. He'll be in a boot for six weeks, and after that we'll have to see how he recovers."

given the freedom to develop the variety required to beat the best. Right now, he is being neutered. The same can be said for Farrell. The England captain has played some of his finest attacking rugby in Saracens colours this season. The weight of his passing has been little short of wondrous at times. His running lines have fixed opposing midfielders to the spot as his back line has poured through holes of his creation.

In England's colours he has been an utterly anonymous figure. A goalkicker and little else until the niggle suffered against New Zealand. Thereafter he wasn't even that. The prevailing wisdom is that Jones has to make a call. It's either Smith or Farrell, not both.

The call now, however, is over the future of Jones. What England lack in their midfield — indeed all over the park — is authenticity. We didn't see the real Smith (those ten minutes aside) or Farrell last month; instead we saw two men struggling to succeed within a structure. Farrell has something of a snarly reputation but anyone watching him conduct his Saracens' team-mates will have noticed a far more relaxed figure. Smith leaves his emotions out there. He's fun to watch. However, neither appears to be enjoying life with England.



Smith, left, and Farrell, have both struggled for form

In contrast, England's cricket team enjoyed an immediate revival in fortunes under Brendon McCullum. The former Kiwi cricketer wants his charges to relish the pleasure of playing at the highest level. Their spectacular runscoring on day one against Pakistan continued England's transformation from the dirge of the Joe Root days to a team happy to give it a lash.

I don't think smiling is an intrinsic part of England rugby's game plan. If it is, the players are keeping the strategy well hidden behind dour masks in a joyless environment, in which playing the game in the moment belongs to another era, a distant time when England's players were prepared to stand up to the management and take over the leadership.

The last ten minutes against New Zealand and the first ten against South Africa revealed England's flickering possibilities even as it hammered home the problems of excessive managerial control. Only Jones's departure will free the talent.

'England would be bonkers to sack Eddie now'

Three journalists from abroad weigh in on Jones and whether he should lead England to next year's World Cup

RÚAIDHRÍ O'CONNOR – CHIEF RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IRISH INDEPENDENT

The England team should be doing a lot better as it's unbelievable on paper. I was in Yokohama in 2019, when they beat the All Blacks at the World Cup, so you can see what they can do. I know you can't just maintain the same team at the same level, but for two years in this cycle England were completely dominant over Ireland. They beat them up twice at Twickenham in Andy Farrell's first year, and at that time it was Farrell getting calls for his head and Ireland stuck with him.

Eddie has previously got a tune out of them, and derailed Ireland's World Cup bid in 2019 twice — in the Six Nations game and World Cup warm-up. It's baffling from the outside to see how much it has gone wrong, but you see the turnover in staff, fringe players and it seems incoherent.

It's an enigmatic team. There's a fear in Ireland that with Eddie there they could turn it around. They have unbelievable players yet the two years of performance would lead you to believe it's not going to happen. There's a team that could get to a World Cup final there.

Ireland only have 100 professional players, so they have to go the way of central contracts. For England to complain about that is an excuse. The Irish system is unbelievably aligned, but look at South Africa for example, and France — they are making England look bad as they have the similar systems of players at different clubs. You can't plead the poor mouth when you're talking about English rugby. There's too many good players in the system to not make a good team out of it.

GAVIN RICH – SENIOR WRITER, SUPERSPORT SOUTH AFRICA

I often think that the English make out their sportsmen are better than they are. I look at the England team and I don't really think there are many individuals challenging for a World XV.

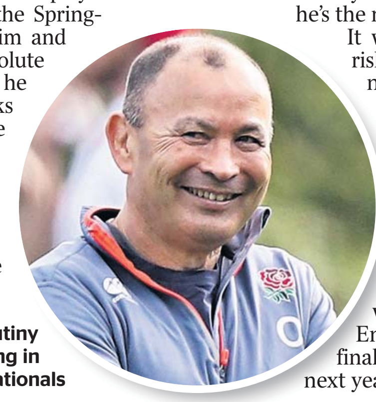
Eddie is an incredible coach with a great rugby brain. He's got a very short sell-by date, though. If you want him to correct a team then he'll get you right, but maybe after two or three years it fades. He is incredibly difficult to work with.

Fourie du Preez, who played under Jones in 2007 at the Springboks, swears by him and says he's an absolute genius. What he brought to the Boks in 2007 was that he stopped Jake White, the head coach, from turning into a complete lunatic and refreshed the thinking at the perfect time a few months before the World Cup.

At that World Cup, Jake would often go out to socialise as he knew Eddie was on the details. Their relationship also went askew, though. That's the thing about Eddie, he's not a people person. He expects people to be machines.

There was a local coach in South Africa who used to meet Eddie fairly often. They once went out on a big night out until around 3am, and despite that Eddie made them go straight to work, not allowing them to go to sleep. He's an obsessive. In South Africa we felt when England started to do well with Eddie that it would last one or two years and then they would have to be clever and work a different way.

To some extent I think the RFU has enabled him. I don't think another coach would get away with saying, "We'll wait for the World Cup." It sounds like he might have overplayed his hand. I do think they have got to be one of the favourites, though, because of their draw — and I think Eddie knows that.



Jones is under scrutiny after a poor showing in the autumn internationals

CHRISTY DORAN – CHIEF RUGBY WRITER, THE ROAR, AUSTRALIA

It would be bonkers for England to get rid of Eddie Jones at this point. Apart from Steve Hansen there's no other person you'd want to lead you to a World Cup than Eddie, because of his pedigree.

Warren Gatland had opportunities to win a World Cup, or make a final, with Wales, and they didn't. He's had a poor record at the Chiefs since returning, that can't be discounted if England are looking at him. I'd be keeping Eddie Jones. I don't know why you'd turn away from him at this late stage.

Eddie won't get rehired by Rugby Australia as a coach for 2023 if he were to be sacked by England. World Cups do take a particular skillset to navigate. We know for World Cups you get the squad together for longer, and for a strength and conditioning aspect, nailing the detail that is so crucial. For someone like Eddie Jones that will be paramount.

The English only remember one head coach and that was Clive Woodward, who won the World Cup in 2003. There's been one World Cup won by the northern hemisphere countries, out of nine. We love the history and idea of the Six Nations but you've got to be less preoccupied with it and start thinking, "How do we win a World Cup?"

If you want to be remembered as a champion team, forget about the Irish and Welsh sides that have won a grandslam — win a World Cup. Eddie knows how to do it.

Australia would have Eddie back in a heartbeat. Guys in Australia still think he's the man.

It would be more of a risk to punt him right now, and it would just fulfil this English thing of, "We have to be more English, and get this Aussie back to where he belongs in Australia."

What is certain is Australia won't want to face Eddie's England at a quarter-final of the World Cup next year.

Duckett was written off too soon – he is a rare talent



Day two
Play starts 5am
TV: Sky Sports Cricket (highlights at 6.30pm)
Follow the action live at thetimes.co.uk

Steve James



In an interview last year Ben Duckett made an interesting observation when he said: "Some people don't even know I played international cricket."

Indeed, although Duckett had played an easily forgotten T20 international in 2019, the buried England career he referenced when speaking with ESPN Cricinfo had come way back in 2016, when he had played three one-day internationals and four Tests against Bangladesh and India.

It did not go well. Duckett did make two fifties in the ODIs and a half-century in his second Test against Bangladesh, but for those who can recall his travails on some wickedly turning pitches, the abiding image was of a young left-handed batsman cruelly and prematurely exposed by the spin of India's Ravichandran Ashwin.

Perhaps we judged him too harshly, and the selectors certainly dismissed him too swiftly because the evidence of this autumn and winter has been that of a sublime, rare talent.

Duckett, 28, was superb in the T20 series in Pakistan in September and October, unfortunate indeed that the squad for the World Cup had already been selected, but you always sensed that his exploits there would soon expedite opportunities in the other formats.

So, while many assumed that Keaton Jennings would replace Alex Lees at the top of the order for this series, even though Duckett has not been opening regularly for Nottinghamshire, the captain, Ben Stokes, and head coach, Brendon McCullum, had eyes only for his more natural and exciting strokeplay.

It is certainly a requited love because Duckett has admitted that the "Bazball" revolution in the summer had persuaded him to shelve attempts to become more circumspect in the longer game and instead play his shots.

There may well be many an opener around the shires (and possibly Jennings himself, who is on this trip) questioning the worth of their more prosaic efforts, especially as Zak Crawley finds runs so hard to come by in county cricket, but the loud and clear message is that England are ripping up all the rule books and to get in this side you need to abide by these new directives.

72.28
Duckett's first-class average this summer — a career high — after scoring 1,012 runs in only 14 innings for Nottinghamshire


McCullum's ethos stopped Duckett curbing his instincts

In fairness, Duckett knows what he is doing up top. He has opened a lot before, not least in two Tests against Bangladesh — and will surely do so for his county next season, having previously asked to bat at No 3 — even if his first-class debut for Northamptonshire in 2013 came as a wicketkeeper batting at No 8. He then opened for Northamptonshire for four seasons from 2015 before moving to Nottinghamshire in the latter part of 2018.

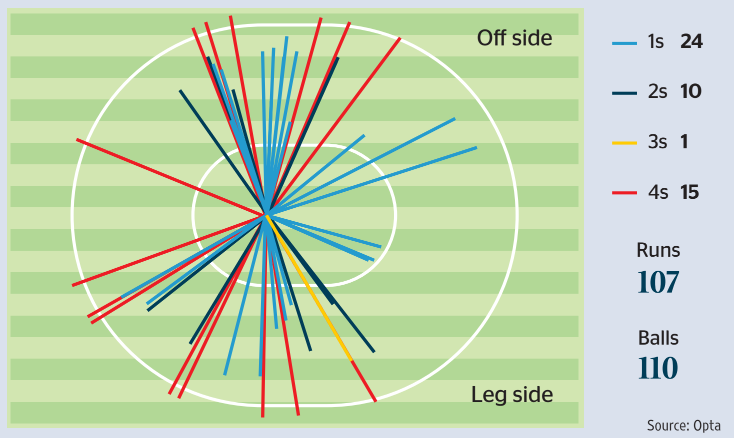
Duckett could not have wished for a better reintroduction to Test cricket. There was no Ashwin to torment him. Instead there was a nervous debutant in Mohammad Ali, who proffered a gentle short ball that the left-hander guided away behind point for four to get off the mark first ball.

Given that Crawley had just taken the first over of the day for 14, a tempo was undoubtedly being set, one that continued to gallop along until England had passed 500 by the day's end. On the first day of a Test match.

Yes, the pitch was as flat as a cowpat and the Pakistan bowling was often naive, but this was an extraordinary day's cricket that was made possible by the initial intent shown by the openers, who made sparkling centuries that will cement them as a combination for some time. When you take lunch at 174 without loss from 27 overs, you know

Duckett's wagon wheel

The left-hander likes to sweep and scored most of his runs square of the wicket



Source: Opta

The batsmen were brilliant – but are England a bowler light?

Elizabeth Ammon

While watching runs flow and records get broken left, right and centre, England's bowlers must have felt a nagging concern about how they were going to go about getting 20 wickets on this flattest of pitches.

There was at least plenty to learn from the mistakes made by the home bowlers, as Pakistan's inexperienced attack, featuring four debutants, were wayward and expensive on a day when England racked up a record-breaking 506 for four.

The new-ball pair of James Anderson and Ollie Robinson are unlikely to be so wayward — nor can they afford to be, with a ball that is unlikely to swing. Babar Azam, the Pakistan captain, could be seen pleading with his bowlers to bowl straighter, only to then watch them overcorrect and stray onto the pads of England's batsmen, making it impossible to set a field. After about 15 overs, Babar was having to set fields to accommodate bad balls.

The first of only three maidens Pakistan managed did not arrive until the 39th over. It was Zahid Mahmood, the leg spinner making his Test debut at 34, who provided the biggest threat, but he was also the most expensive bowler. There is no grass at all on the pitch; it will change over the course of the match and there may be more turn later on, but key for the spinners will be the pace they bowl.

There was some reverse-swing towards the end of the day and that will have been encouraging for Anderson — but that won't happen until after the 50-over mark. Ben Stokes will need to use himself wisely and try to deploy effort balls to find some bounce.

"The pitches [in Pakistan] are always slow, low and skiddy," Harry Brook, the England batsman who finished unbeaten on 101, said. "When we were batting there were a few balls that went down [kept low] and none that reared up and hopefully as the game goes on, we'll start to see it go lower. They got it to reverse-swing and I'm sure we'll do the same. If balls start going underground, we have a chance of bowling them out."

While it may seem churlish to level any criticism towards England after a day they have dominated so thoroughly, there may be questions about the balance of the XI they selected. There is an embarrassment of batting riches but that comes at the expense of the attack — might they have been better to include another specialist bowler?

The out-and-out pace of Naseem Shah was more effective than any of the other seamers, though England were not helped in this respect by Mark Wood being ruled out with injury and Jamie Overton being too ill to play because of the virus that swept through the squad pre-match. This was unfortunate, as Overton might have offered a point of difference in England's attack.

Jack Leach will be required, as the only specialist spinner, to bowl a lot of overs. Livingstone and Will Jacks will be called upon to bowl but they are both on debut and only have 64 first-class wickets between them. Livingstone can bowl both off spin and leg spin but the latter is most likely to be effective.

Bowling on this surface is unforgiving for seamers and spinners and while the batting was dominant yesterday, victory will only come through the bowlers. Rather than packing the batting, should England have picked another bowler? Time will tell.

MATTHEW LEWIS/GETTY IMAGES



There had been 2,477 Tests. And then there was this…

Simon Wilde on how England tore up the record books – and cricketing convention – in Rawalpindi run fest

When England were tearing up the record books in the summer there were sages remarking that this sort of attacking play was all very well in their own conditions but when they went abroad things would be much harder. Only on Wednesday, Mark Waugh, the former Australia batsman, on commentary at the Test match against West Indies in Perth was asking of England's approach: "Can they keep it up?" Well, let's just say that Bazball's first day overseas was a pretty spectacular triumph — and if the world wasn't watching, it should have been.

Here are some key pointers to an astonishing day's play that once again tore up convention — from a team that had been so riven by illness that they would not have been able to put out a side had the game started 24 hours earlier.

THE TOSS AND BATTING FIRST

Ben Stokes has normally liked to chase since becoming captain, in the belief that his side can chase down anything, but in Asia where pitches tend to be good for the first three days before starting to deteriorate (to varying degrees, depending on the region) there is a good case for batting first and making the runs when the pitches are at their flattest. This mindset underpinned England's tactics all day: Zak Crawley hit three fours off the first over from Naseem Shah, and Stokes struck three fours and a six off the last one from Mohammad Ali. In all there were 73 fours and three sixes hit in 75 overs, so fractionally better than one boundary every over. "The outfield was rapid, which I think was why we scored quickly," Crawley said.

THE FIRST SESSION

Crawley and Ben Duckett gave the innings a flying start. In some ways, this approach is hardly original: batting such as this was patented on sub-continental pitches by India's Virender Sehwag and in Australia by David Warner, but for two batsmen to go hell for leather like this was unusual. By reaching the first interval on 174 for none, they narrowly failed to topple the record first-session score of 179 by any team on the opening day of a Test, set by South Africa against Australia at Johannesburg in 1902. The England record for an opening session of 169, set against Australia at Trent Bridge in 1938, was left behind.



Brook shows his delight after hitting Shakeel for six fours in the 68th over

MAINTAINING THE TEMPO

There was no let-up in England's approach in the second and third sessions, even though the ball was softening. They added 158 for three in 27 overs between lunch and tea and scored 174 for one from 21 overs in the shorter period after tea before the light faded. At about 4.15pm, they reached 450 in 68.4 overs, breaking the previous record to that mark by any Test side by more than 12 overs.

SCORING FAST IN ASIA

It is acknowledged that scoring fast on Asian pitches can be difficult. This may be partly because teams prefer to carefully build big first-innings totals as insurance against mishaps later in the game. That's not how this England side operate; they want to entertain but also attack and if they occasionally come unstuck, so be it. Before this game they had only twice scored 300 or more at faster than 4.5 per over in any overseas Test, but even more significantly no side had ever scored anything like this fast in Asia. Sri Lanka scored 555 against Bangladesh in Colombo in 2001 at a rate of 5.36; here England made 506 at 6.74 per over.

BROOK'S OVER

Nothing exemplified England's ruthlessness better than Harry Brook's treatment of Saud Shakeel's ropey left-arm spin in the 68th over as Pakistan searched for ways of protecting their front-line bowlers from further punishment. All six balls were dispatched for four, making Brook the first England batsman to hit every delivery of a six-ball over for boundaries, and only the third batsman in all Tests to do so after Brian Lara and Craig McMillan. "They were all bad balls and I was always going to try to hit the sixth for four," Brook said. "I was probably happier with that than my hundred."

THE FAST HUNDREDS

Not only did England score four individual hundreds for only the third time (they also did so against Australia at Trent Bridge in 1938 and West Indies at Lord's in 2007), but three of these four hundreds came off 90 balls or fewer — Brook off 80, Crawley off 86 and Ollie Pope off 90 (Duckett came in at a relatively sluggardly 105). In 1,055 Tests before this one, only six England batsmen had scored hundreds in 90 balls or fewer, and one of those was by Jonny Bairstow off 77 balls in the summer under this same regime. No Test team have ever scored three centuries this fast in the same innings.

RUNS IN THE DAY

In March, on the corresponding day of the Rawalpindi Test against Australia, Pakistan edged to 245 for one by stumps. England had left that behind by afternoon drinks. They later left behind their own previous highest score on the first day of a Test (475 against Australia at the Oval in 1934) and the most runs by any side on day one of a Test — and there have been 2,478 Tests since 1877. What Stokes will view as most important is that England have scored so fast they have created time later in the game to take 20 wickets. Whether they can manage that remains to be seen but don't bet against it.

Four other dominant days

1938 v Australia, the Oval
England scored 347 for one, Len Hutton reaching 160 en route to a world record-breaking 364

2010 v Australia, Melbourne
The hosts were skittled for 98 on Boxing Day before Andrew Strauss and Alastair Cook posted 157

2015 v Australia, Trent Bridge
Stuart Broad dismantled Australia for 60 with the figures of eight for 15, then Joe Root hit a century

2017 v West Indies, Edgbaston
On day three, England enforced the follow-on to claim 19 wickets, led by Broad and James Anderson, and win

that the openers have done a good job.

Duckett, who stays quite leg side of the ball in moving straight back, rather than back and across in his initial movement, is exceptionally strong square of the wicket and some of his shots on the off side, playing the ball late and behind square, were an absolute delight. There was a moment of fortune on 22 when a flashed edge off Naseem Shah flew wide of the slips, but the early introduction of the leg spinner Zahid Mahmood on his debut allowed Duckett to demonstrate again — it had been conspicuously to the fore in that T20I series — the brilliance of his sweeping and reverse-sweeping.

Just in case we had forgotten, on the day before the match Duckett had posted a photograph on Twitter of himself playing a reverse-sweep in practice. "If in doubt" were the words accompanying his post. Mahmood's fourth ball was reverse-swept for four and his fifth was paddle-swept to the boundary so that Duckett was soon bringing up his fifty at a run a ball.

He reached his century as Naseem misfielded at fine leg off Haris Rauf, and he will probably be disappointed that he did not kick on beyond 107 (leg-before reverse-sweeping), even if it has to be factored in that he was in bed all day on Wednesday with the virus that has swept through the England camp.

Duckett certainly presents a nice contrast to Crawley: left-hander to right-hander, short man to tall man, square-of-the-wicket wristy player to down-the-ground power player. They will constantly ask questions of the bowlers when swapping ends. It looks an alluring alliance.

People know all about Duckett in international cricket now.

Double centuries for Smith and Labuschagne

It was not just England who piled on the runs yesterday as Australia's Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith each hit a double century on the second day of the opening match of their two-Test series. Australia declared at 598 for four, leaving West Indies 524 runs adrift at stumps, having toiled in the field for 152.4 overs in Perth — but their fightback began well, ending the day on 74 without loss.

Meanwhile, Ben Stokes is among 31 English players who have entered the Indian Premier League auction for next year. Stokes, the England Test captain, opted out of the lucrative T20 competition this year to focus on Test cricket.

Results

Football

World Cup: Group E

Costa Rica (0) **2** — **Germany** (1) **4**
Tejeda 58, Vargas 70 — Gnabry 10, Havertz 73, 85, Füllkrug 89
67,054
(at Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor)

Japan (0) **2** — **Spain** (1) **1**
Doan 48, Tanaka 51 — Morata 11
44,851
(at Khalifa Stadium, Al Rayyan)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Japan (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	**6**
Spain (Q)	3	1	1	1	9	3	6	**4**
Germany	3	1	1	1	6	5	1	**4**
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	11	-8	**3**

Group F

Canada (1) **1** — **Morocco** (2) **2**
Aguerd 40 (og) — Ziyech 4, En-Nesyri 23
43,102
(at Al Thumama Stadium, Doha)

Croatia (0) **0** — **Belgium** (0) **0**
43,984
(at Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Morocco (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	**7**
Croatia (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	**5**
Belgium	3	1	1	1	1	2	-1	**4**
Canada	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	**0**

Cricket

First Test: Australia v West Indies

Perth (second day of five): West Indies, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 524 runs behind Australia

Australia First Innings (overnight 293-2)

M Labuschagne c Da Silva b Brathwaite	204
S P D Smith not out	200
T M Head b Brathwaite	99
Extras (b 13, lb 2, w 5, nb 5)	25
Total (4 wkts dec, 152.4 overs)	**598**

C D Green, †A T Carey, *P J Cummins, M A Starc, N M Lyon and J R Hazlewood did not bat.
Fall of wickets 1-9, 2-151, 3-402, 4-598.
Bowling Roach 26-3-91-0; Seales 21-3-95-1; Joseph 24-4-83-0; Mayers 15-2-39-1; Holder 23-6-70-0; Chase 31-2-140-0; Brathwaite 12.4-0-65-2.

West Indies First Innings

*K C Brathwaite not out	18
T Chanderpaul not out	47
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9
Total (no wkt, 25 overs)	**74**

N E Bonner, J Blackwood, K R Mayers, J O Holder, †J Da Silva, R L Chase, A S Joseph, K A J Roach and J N T Seales to bat.
Bowling Starc 7-2-15-0; Hazlewood 8-1-31-0; Cummins 6-1-15-0; Lyon 4-1-6-0.
Umpires R K Illingworth and R J Tucker.

Golf

DP World Tour Investec South African Open

Johannesburg: Leading first-round scores (South Africa unless stated): **64** T Lawrence. **65** R Fisher (Eng), J Fahrbring (Swe). **66** S Jamieson (Scot), M Schmid (Ger), J J Senekal. **67** W Nienaber, L Brown, A Michael, E Molinari (It), S Tarrio (Sp), T McKibbin (N Ire). **68** D Bradbury (Eng), C Schwartzel, M Gradecki (Pol), D Fichardt, T Aiken, J Schaper, M Warren (Scot), A Cockerill (Can), J Dantorp (Swe), K Krogh Johannessen (Nor), C Sordet (Fr), C Bring (Den). **69** K de Beer, C Maas, R Sterne, Z Lombard, C Hanna (US), D Gavins (Eng), N Kimsey (Eng), J Freiburghaus (Switz), Ko Jeong-weon (Fr), D Germishuys, S Hutsby (Eng), G Hurley (Ire), M Siem (Ger).

DP World Tour ISPS Handa Australian Open

Victoria GC and Kingston Heath GC, Melbourne: Leading first-round scores (Australia unless stated): **63** D Micheluzzi. **66** M Griffin. **67** N Hoejgaard (Den), C McKinney, Z Garcia, P Pineau (Fr). **68** J Geary (NZ), H Endycott, D Ieremia (NZ), N Voke (NZ), P Cooke, L Higgins, V Meyer (Ger), T Lewis (Eng), C Purcell (Ire). **69** H Barron, G Wiebe (US), D Bling (US), D Lawson (Aus), T Sinnott (Aus), C Wood (Aus), E Smylie (Aus), T Kanaya (Japan), L Johnston (Scot).

Snooker

BetVictor Scottish Open

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh (England unless stated): **Second round** J Lisowski bt A Carter 4-3; Xiao Guodong (China) bt Tian Pengfei (China) 4-2; T Un-Nooh (Thai) bt M Allen (N Ire) 4-1; J Jones (Wales) bt J Higgins (Scot) 4-3; S Craigie bt Zhang Anda (China) 4-2; R Walden bt R Day (Wales) 4-0; K Wilson bt S Maguire 4-2; H Vafaei (Iran) bt Yan Bingtao (China) 4-3. **Third round** J O'Connor bt M Williams (Wales) 4-3; N Robertson (Aus) bt A McGill (Scot) 4-2; J Trump bt Xiao 4-2.

Fixtures

Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

World Cup: Group G Cameroon v Brazil (7.0, at Lusail Iconic Stadium); Serbia v Switzerland (7.0, at Stadium 974, Doha). **Group H** Ghana v Uruguay (3.0, at Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah); South Korea v Portugal (3.0, at Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan).

Sky Bet League One Bolton v Bristol Rovers; Charlton v Cheltenham; Ipswich v Fleetwood; Morecambe v Exeter; Peterborough v Barnsley; Plymouth v Port Vale. **League Two** Crewe v Newport County; Doncaster v Walsall; Stevenage v Barrow.

Vanarama North Alfreton v Kidderminster; Darlington v Kettering. **South** Bath v Welling.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership Bath v Harlequins (7.45).

United Rugby Championship Edinburgh v Munster (7.35); Sharks v Ospreys (5.0).

Four centuries, 506 runs, and

Mike Atherton



Chief Cricket Correspondent, Rawalpindi

Pakistan v England

Rawalpindi (first day of five; England won toss): England have scored 506 for four wickets against Pakistan

"Bazball" has landed in Pakistan — and how. Three hours before the start of play, on a cool, hazy Islamabad morning, Ben Stokes duly informed the opposition that he could raise an XI, but few could have envisaged that even this team could play with such daring, dash and flair, scoring more runs in a day of Test cricket than any England team have done before. Pakistan's bowlers were left rueful that the virus running through the touring side's camp was only of the 24-hour type.

England's top order splattered Pakistan's attack all around the Rawalpindi Stadium. For the first time on the opening day of a Test, four batsmen made hundreds — Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook. Two of them, for Duckett and Brook, were maiden centuries; three came at quicker than a run a ball. Duckett's in 105 balls was, remarkably, the slowest of the four. Pakistan left the field shell-shocked, wondering what kind of runaway train had hit them.

In an exhilarating opening session, Crawley and Duckett set the ball rolling with England's fastest opening century partnership. Although three wickets fell in the afternoon session, England's intent never faltered and by the close they had scored more runs on a day of Test cricket in Pakistan than had ever been made before and more runs than had ever been scored on the opening day of a Test anywhere. The run rate was an astonishing 6.74.

How to explain it? England's attitude and intention to entertain has been expressed time and again by those in and around the dressing room, but you need the tools to put that into action. Add to that the flattest of pitches, one that offered nothing to any bowler of any type; add in an inexperienced Pakistan attack — with four players on debut — that bowled poorly, plus a fast outfield and you have a partial explanation. But really, 500 runs on the opening day of a Test that was cut short by 15 overs in all, defies explanation to a large degree.

Perhaps the one over that projected England's dominance above all was the 68th, bowled by Saud Shakeel, the debutant left-arm spinner, which Brook took for six fours, equalling Ian Botham's record, set in 1986, for the most Test runs in an over by an England batsman. By that stage, there was a good crowd in — it had been very sparse at the start of the day — and if there were any in the ground who had witnessed England play in this country on the past two tours, they might have rubbed their eyes and wondered at the transformation. This was dominance and intent of the kind that an England team have never brought to the subcontinent.

After all the uncertainty and drama of the day before, with a virus cutting through England's ranks necessitating some late-night bargaining between the respective boards — does the 24-hour news cycle and social media make these situations more dramatic than before, or does the presence of the medics within a touring team add an extra layer of caution? — England had only one change to make ultimately, with Ben Foakes too ill to play, which was good news for his Surrey team-mate, Will Jacks. That was the extent of the trouble. Otherwise, things could scarcely have gone better, with Stokes winning a good toss — opting to bat for the first time in this new era — and the batsmen setting about Pakistan's attack with gusto. There was no swing, no seam and no bounce for the quicker bowlers and, by the time the leg spinner Zahid Mahmood was introduced on his debut, Duckett, in particular, was ready and waiting. Zahid had a chastening day, as did all the Pakistan bowlers.

Crawley signalled England's intentions immediately, taking three boundaries in the opening over; the first off the outside edge, the next two resoundingly off the middle and down the ground. Duckett cut his first ball for four and looked immediately at ease on a surface completely removed from the one on which he made his Test debut in Bangladesh six years ago.

Crawley had a good battle against Naseem Shah, the whippy-armed young quick bowler. Another edge, off the inside this time, flew to the fine-leg boundary, two leg-before shouts were turned down — the first was close but issues with technology meant DRS was not in operation — and a bouncer brought a top edge that landed just short of fine leg. But in between, Crawley was dominant, pulling Haris Rauf to the mid-wicket boundary dismissively whenever the bowler dropped short.

England blazed along: the fifty came up in the ninth over, the century partnership in the 14th, by which time Crawley had already moved to his own fifty in only 38 balls. There was no respite for Babar Azam, the bewildered captain: when he brought on his leg spinner, Zahid, Duckett brought out his sweep shots, a reverse first of all and then a fine dab for four more. It was Pakistan who needed the brief respite that the drinks break provided.

It was time to scan the record books: who held the record for England's fastest Test hundred — ultimately, Gilbert Jessop's 1902 record remained intact — whether any England opener had ever scored a hundred before lunch on the opening day of a Test — Crawley fell nine runs short in the end — and which England team had scored more quickly in the opening session of a Test — none came the answer. At lunch the score was an extraordinary 174 for no wicket and the run rate significantly more than a run a ball.

Crawley had a heart-stopping moment on 99, when given out leg-before to Naseem, but by now DRS was back in operation and Crawley took advantage. A square drive brought up his hundred in 86 balls and Duckett was not far behind. When Duckett pulled Rauf to the square-leg boundary to bring up his own hundred shortly afterwards, finally announcing himself as an England batsman, all the minor indiscretions of youth were forgotten. Promise fulfilled at last.

Pakistan had no answer to this opening salvo, waiting only for a sign of reverse-swing. It finally came, along with a smidgin of slow turn for Zahid, who finally got his first wicket when Duckett reverse-swept once too often. The ball hit the left-hander near his armpit, but Duckett is small, his position was low and there is little bounce in this pitch. Crawley then missed an inswinger from Rauf and at least Pakistan had two new batsmen at the crease.

Both openers demonstrated that the new ball and a fresh pitch can be a friend in Pakistan, the way it rarely is in England. It is often harder here to bat against the old ball, and while Pope and Brook will have many more challenging days than this one, coming in as they did with Pakistan already on their knees, their hundreds came when the ball had started to reverse-swing ever so slightly.

Foakes's illness means that Pope will keep wicket for the second time in his Test career, but with England batting first, his position at No 3 brooked no argument. He lost Joe Root relatively quickly, when Root missed a sweep — a rare enough event in itself. Brook announced himself with a lovely lofted drive over extra cover, then a dabbed sweep for four off the leg spinner, and was up and running. Tea arrived, with England 332 for three in 54 overs, the run rate still better than a run a ball.

Pakistan's bowling and fielding was laboured by now. Naseem did not wilt but his line strayed too often to leg. Rauf must surely have felt it in his legs after so little first-class cricket, while Mohammad Ali looked to be lacking pace and devil, a very un-Pakistan-like opening bowler. Zahid's figures took a pounding and, after Brook's assault, Shakeel retreated not to be seen again.

Pope had started a little scratchily against Zahid, but by the time he nudged a single into the leg side, to register his third Test hundred, he was batting imperiously. Then he shuffled across the crease to give Ali a first wicket. Brook put the finishing touch on an incredible day, by stroking a gorgeous cover drive off Naseem to bring up his maiden hundred in only his second Test, England's third-fastest. Jonny Bairstow may never play golf again after missing out on this bonanza.

Stokes signalled what may be around the corner, with Liam Livingstone and Jacks to come, by taking Ali for 18 in what became the final over of the day.

All told, England hit 73 fours and three sixes. The light fell quickly, as it does in the north of the country, cutting things short, but this was a day that the England team wished could have gone on for ever.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	R
Z Crawley b Rauf *Reverse-swing, through the gate*	122
B M Duckett lbw b Mehmood *Pitching in line, hitting off stump*	107
†O J D Pope lbw b M Ali *Shuffled across, rapped knee roll*	108
J E Root lbw b Mehmood *Tossed up, sweeps and misses*	23
H C Brook not out	101
***B A Stokes** not out	34
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 1, nb 2)	11
TOTAL (4 wkts, 75 overs)	506

W G Jacks, L S Livingstone, M J Leach, O E Robinson and J M Anderson to bat.
Fall of wickets 1-233, 2-235, 3-286, 4-462.
Bowling Shah 15-0-96-0; Ali 17-1-96-1; Rauf 13-1-78-1; Mehmood 23-1-160-2; Salman 5-0-38-0; Shakeel 2-0-30-0.

Pakistan Abdullah Shafique, Imam-ul-Haq, Azhar Ali, *Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, †Mohammad Rizwan, Agha Salman, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Ali, Zahid Mahmood.

Umpires Joel Wilson (West Indies) and Ahsan Raza (Pakistan).
TV umpire Marais Erasmus (South Africa). **Reserve umpire** Asif Yaqoob (Pakistan). **Match referee** Andy Pycroft (Zimbabwe).
Series details: Second Test: Dec 9-13 (Multan). Third Test: Dec 17-21 (Karachi).



Ollie Pope
Runs 108
Balls 104

Breaking the record

England have become the first team to score more than 500 runs in the first innings in a single day of a Test match

Date	Team	Oppo	Runs	Ground
Dec 1, 2022	England	Pakistan	506	Rawalpindi
Dec 9, 1910	Australia	South Africa	494	Sydney
Nov 22, 2012	Australia	South Africa	482	Adelaide
Aug 18, 1934	England	Australia	475	The Oval
Aug 15, 1936	England	India	471	The Oval
May 27, 1912	Australia	South Africa	464	Old Trafford
Jul 11, 1930	England	Australia	458	Headingley

Source: ESPN Cricinfo, Opta

records galore – it defies logic

ANJUM NAVEED/AP; PHILIP BROWN; MATTHEW LEWIS/GETTY IMAGES





Zak Crawley
Runs 122
Balls 111



Ben Duckett
Runs 107
Balls 110



Harry Brook
Runs 101
(not out)
Balls 81

Hopefully we can kick on to 1,000 runs, jokes Crawley

CONTINUED FROM BACK

from 75 overs, before bad light curtailed the day's play. Ben Stokes, the captain, finished the day with a flourish, smashing an unbeaten 34 off only 15 balls.

It was the day "Bazball" went ballistic, 24 hours after a viral infection in the England camp threatened to delay the start of the game. Ben Foakes was still not well enough to take his place, Will Jacks of Surrey being summoned shortly before the start to make his debut.

Duckett, who was one of those who felt unwell the previous day, said: "The energy levels probably weren't the highest this morning and there were some happy men when we won the toss and batted. It gave our bowlers another day to rest up. Stokesy said, 'Let's get out there and take them on.' "

They certainly did that. What followed was scarcely believable.

Crawley said the focus of the team, who won six out of the seven Tests at home in the summer, was not on reinventing Test cricket but making themselves a better team and one people want to watch.

"We're trying to change how we have been playing and we've done that," he said. "We've just been looking to score and be positive all the time and have a good attitude in the field. Winning is great but part of our goal is to make people want to watch Test cricket and hopefully that's happening.

"We just want to be positive. If they bowl 100 balls in a good spot then we'll block 100 balls, but if we get an opportunity to score, we'll score. The outfield was rapid and the pitch was good, so that's why we scored quickly. I've never seen a day like that. It was unbelievable.

"Ducky [Duckett] batted fantastic and so did the other two boys. Hopefully we can go again tomorrow, get a big one and get 1,000 — I'm joking."

Pope credited Stokes and Brendon McCullum, the red-ball head coach, for England's thrilling display.

"Baz and Stokesy said they want us to take it on," Pope said. "We all lived by the way the two guys at the top wanted us to play. They want us to entertain. It's not necessarily always about milestones. It's about putting on a show and putting the team in a good position.

"It almost looked like they [Pakistan] panicked a bit. There wasn't really anywhere they could bowl."

Brook moved from 60 to 84 with six fours off six balls from Saud Shakeel's left-arm spin, becoming the first England batsman to hit every ball of an over in Test cricket for boundaries.

"I enjoyed every minute," he said. "We just wanted to keep the bowlers under pressure and score off every ball. They were all bad balls [in Shakeel's over]. I just tried to put them away really. Obviously I was always going to try to hit the sixth for four. I was probably happier with that than the hundred, to be honest."

Duckett, who put on 233 for the first wicket with Crawley in his first Test for six years, said: " It was a very good pitch to bat on and an important toss. It's going to be tough work to take 20 wickets but we'll learn from what Pakistan didn't do."

Scoring at pace

Highest run rates in the first innings of a Test match

Match	Date	Score	Overs	RPO
England v Pakistan	Dec 1, 2022	506/4	75	6.74
New Zealand v Australia	Feb 20, 2016	370	65.4	5.63
New Zealand v Sri Lanka	Dec 26, 2014	441	85.5	5.13
England v Australia	Aug 4, 2005	407	79.2	5.13
Australia v South Africa	Nov 22, 2012	550	107.2	5.12
Australia v West Indies	Dec 10, 2015	583/4d	114	5.11
New Zealand v Zimbabwe	Aug 7, 2005	452/9d	89	5.07
West Indies v England	Jul 22, 1976	450	88.4	5.07
Australia v Zimbabwe	Oct 9, 2003	735/6d	146.3	5.01
England v South Africa	Jan 2, 2016	629/6d	125.5	4.99

952

Can England set a record for highest Test innings? It is held by Sri Lanka, who made 952/6 declared against India in 1997

Fastest Test centurions

England players who took the fewest balls to score one hundred runs

Player	Opposition	Balls	Year
GL Jessop	Australia	76	1902
JM Bairstow	New Zealand	77	2022
Harry Brook	Pakistan	80	2022
BA Stokes	New Zealand	85	2015
IT Botham	Australia	86	1981
IT Botham	Australia	86	1981
Zak Crawley	Pakistan	86	2022
KP Pietersen	West Indies	88	2008
Ollie Pope	Pakistan	90	2022
IT Botham	New Zealand	99	1983

Sport



Germany out of World Cup

Second successive exit at group stage — and Belgium fall, too

The Game, inside today





MATTHEW LEWIS/GETTY IMAGES

Did that really just happen?

England smash Pakistan bowlers (and record books) on an incredible day of Test cricket

Simon Wilde Rawalpindi

England took Test cricket to new heights in Pakistan yesterday, smashing the record for the most runs by any side on the first day of a match as four players scored hundreds at a ferocious pace.

Harry Brook hit his maiden Test century off 80 balls — the third fastest for England — Zak Crawley scored the fastest hundred by an England opener off 86 balls and Ollie Pope reached three figures off 90. Ben Duckett also made his maiden hundred, off 105 balls, as England racked up 506 for four

Continued on page 77

Mike Atherton's verdict

Pages 76-77

Crawley celebrates after scoring his century off only 86 balls on an astonishing opening day of the first Test in Rawalpindi. Four England batsman blasted hundreds

Fears raised over pitch for England game

Matt Lawton
Chief Sports Correspondent, Doha

Fifa is working hard to repair the pitch for England's World Cup round-of-16 match against Senegal on Sunday after concerns were raised about the playing surface at the Al Bayt Stadium.

There has been TV footage of pitches cutting up, even if Fifa maintains it has the situation under control, while nations including Brazil have expressed reservations about the pitches in Qatar, leaving world football's governing body to deploy "recovery teams" after the group stage.

The Qatari hosts have gone to great expense to provide good playing surfaces in a desert conditions. They have imported turf from the United States, transporting it on climate-controlled aircraft. Each pitch requires 10,000 litres of water daily in the winter and 50,000 litres in the summer.

There are some unique challenges for ground staff at this tournament, with all but Stadium 974 having air conditioning. Cooling temperatures can make some varieties of grass dormant in this climate, negatively affecting regrowth between matches.

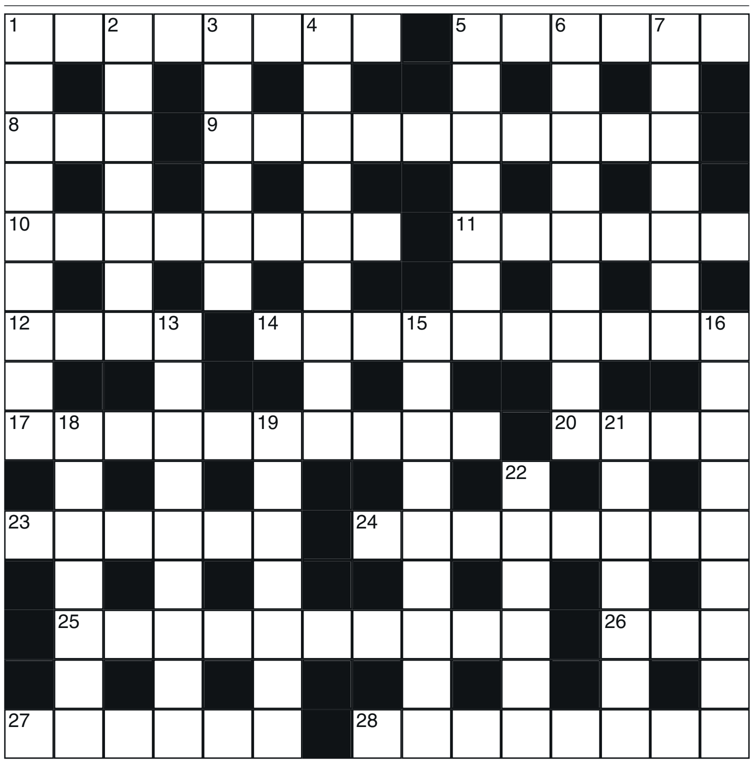
Wear and tear is causing further problems as Qatar is using only eight stadiums compared to 12 in Russia four years ago and in Brazil in 2014. To combat that, the Qataris have grown a massive reserve of grass — enough to cover 40 pitches — on a farm north of Doha should any of the playing surfaces need to be relaid.

Fifa recruited dedicated teams from around the world for each stadium. The FA has brought its head groundsman from St George's Park to maintain England's training pitch.

Brazil's goalkeeping coach, Claudio Taffarel, said staff inspected the pitch before their match with Switzerland and were unhappy. "It really caught our attention that it was not perfect...making it difficult to control the ball."

England coverage, the game, pages 6-7

Times Crossword 28,463



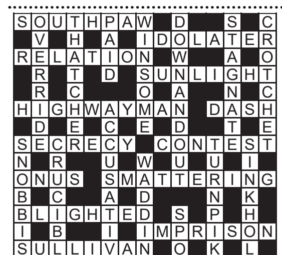
ACROSS

1 More safe crackers triggering alarm? (8)
5 Pacific state importing South Indian pastry (6)
8 Article written in standard English gets punishment (3)
9 Five among literati restored unknown theory (10)
10 Strolls on quiet street in York (8)
11 Some quantity of light pressure blistering leg (6)
12 Female on farm runs for pitcher (4)
14 Decorative items: sprays between two flowers (6,4)
17 Cut out returning strain after duke's been admitted to hospital? (10)
20 Break right foot when crossing isle (4)
23 Chapel in speculation facing endless perdition (6)
24 Travel back with husband, soak outside in disgrace here? (8)
25 Work for barrister: being bound to accept it (10)
26 This old character resides in terraced house (3)
27 Some work to stop chap finding port (6)
28 Threaten to chase the woman pinching one's valuable property (8)

DOWN

1 Extreme way drink's bottled in rural location (9)
2 Tape playing with superb content (2,5)
3 Good person having to dress flasher at disco (6)
4 Married island girl from south, easily persuaded (9)
5 Taste something cheap and something dear? (7)
6 Upcoming Irishman with degree coming in post (4-5)
7 "Look again", said Queen Jane (7)
13 Affluent speculator acquiring East German house (9)
15 Abstract poem, about to disappear, is featured in book (9)
16 Drink, then sloshed before noon in London district (9)
18 I feel cold winds, having wrapped love in frozen sheet (3,4)
19 Virtue-signaller supported by low-down element (7)
21 Content of little eggs yet to be delivered? (2,5)
22 Seller ultimately associated with Polish sock production? (6)

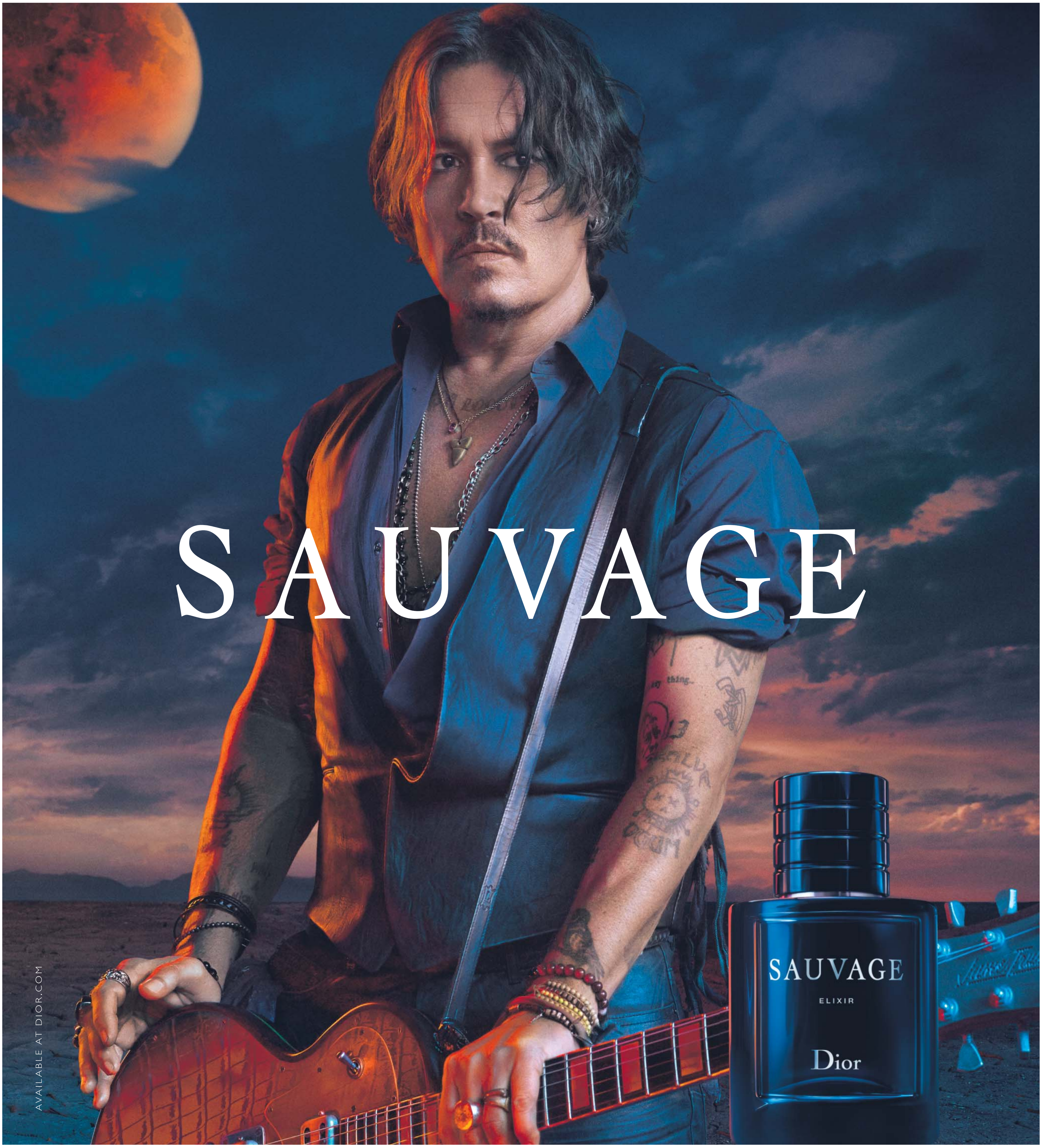
Yesterday's solution 28,462



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

Newspapers support recycling
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%


On tonight's show
Darren Bent
John Fashanu
Shaun Williamson
FOOTBALL BLOODY HELL!
Andy Goldstein takes on the Qatar World Cup with big name guests on a brand-new live football chat show, Football Bloody Hell!
TONIGHT FROM 9PM
TALK TV
WATCH HERE:
Freeview 237
sky 522
Virgin media 606
App | Talk.TV
YouTube



DIOR

THE TIMES
thegame
World Cup Special
FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 2022

PAGE 6
Grealish happy to bring a touch of City life to the England camp

PAGES 8-9
Inside the academy that nurtured the stars of Senegal's success in Qatar

JAPAN 2-1 SPAIN

COSTA RICA 2-4 GERMANY

The ball stays in... Germany crash out

Japan keep the ball alive in the build-up to their winner against Spain – the goal that puts Germans out of the World Cup

PAGES 2-3



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

. . . AND MARTÍNEZ QUITS AS COACH AFTER BELGIUM FALL AT GROUP STAGE TOO PAGE 5

‘Catastrophic’ exit kills off

Costa Rica	Germany
2	4
Tejeda 58, Neuer (og) 70	Gnabry 10, Havertz 73, 85, Füllkrug 89

RATINGS
Costa Rica (3-4-2-1): **K Navas** (Paris Saint-Germain) 7; **Ó Duarte** (Al-Wehda) 6, **K Waston** (Saprissa) 8, **J P Vargas** (Millionarios) 7; **K Fuller** (Herediano 7; **J Bennette** Sunderland 74, 6), **C Borges** (Alajuelense) 6, **Y Tejeda** (Herediano 6; **R Wilson** (Municipal Grecia 90+3), **B Oviedo** (Real Salt Lake 5, **A Contreras** (Herediano) 90+3); **B Aguilera** (Guanacasteca 6, **Y Salas** (Saprissa 45, 6), **J Campbell** (Léon) 6; **J Venegas** (Alajuelense 6; **R Matarrita** FC Cincinnati, 74, 6).
Booked Duarte.

Germany (4-2-3-1): **M Neuer** (Bayern Munich) 7; **J Kimmich** (Bayern Munich) 7, **N Süle** (Borussia Dortmund 5; **M Ginter** Freiburg, 90+3), **A Rüdiger** (Real Madrid) 6, **D Raum** (RB Leipzig 6; **M Götze** (Eintracht Frankfurt, 67, 5); **I Gündogan** (Manchester City 6; **N Füllkrug** Werder Bremen, 55), **L Goretzka** (Bayern Munich 6; **L Klostermann** RB Leipzig, 45, 6); **S Gnabry** (Bayern Munich) 6, **J Musiala** (Bayern Munich) 8, **L Sané** (Bayern Munich 8); **T Müller** (Bayern Munich 6; **K Havertz** Chelsea, 67, 9).

Referee Stéphanie Frappart (France).
Attendance 67,054.

JAMES GHEERBRANT
AL BAYT STADIUM

Stop all the Klopps. Cut through that golden thread. Pack away the aura of calm mastery and cool heads. Germany are out at the group stage for the second World Cup in a row, out before the quarter-finals of a third consecutive major tournament.

They were international football's north star, our beloved nemesis, the model and the machine. They were the team you could set your watch to, the team whose command of the high-wire game of tournament football became a running joke. But they are no longer that team. And in some small way, international football doesn't feel the same.

This was a night of extraordinary drama. In the end, Germany did what they needed to do and beat Costa Rica, but only after they let their match turn into a wild, oscillating affair. At one stage, they trailed 2-1 and faced humiliation. And though Hansi Flick's team eventually imposed their class, they were ultimately left marooned by Japan's unexpected 2-1 win against Spain — and cursing their own defeat against Japan in their first group game.

"It's an absolute catastrophe," said Thomas Müller, the forward playing in his fourth World Cup. "It is unbelievably bitter for us because our result would have been enough." Flick was critical of his team's finishing in their two previous matches. "It's all up to us," he said. "If you look at the matches, I am convinced we had sufficient chances against Spain, and also against Japan [to win]."

Flick suggested that his team had been chasing an 8-0 win, the only result that would have put their destiny entirely in their hands. "During the first half, I think the potential was there to strike four goals and put pressure on the opponent," he said.

And it really did feel like that when Germany scored after ten minutes. Jamal Musiala carried the ball upfield then fed David Raum, whose cross was deftly glanced into the far corner by Serge Gnabry. He immediately picked the ball out of the net and jogged briskly back to the centre circle holding it under his arm, like a foreman strolling through the morning gates, whistling a tune, steel lunchbox at his hip. The message was clear: Germany were going to work.

But they were not sharp enough to make their superiority count. And before half-time came a reminder of the danger they were in. Costa Rica pumped a long ball forward, Raum and Antonio Rüdiger made a horrible mess of it, and suddenly Keysher Fuller was in. He caught his shot cleanly, but Manuel Neuer made a brilliant save.

At half-time, Germany returned to their usual arrangement, with Leon Goretzka withdrawn, Joshua Kimmich back in the pivot and Lukas Klostermann replacing him at right back. But suddenly the night shifted. Two quick goals for Japan in the other game left them staring at elimination. As the urgency mounted, Niclas Füllkrug was summoned to replace Ilkay Gundogan.

But Germany were careless, and they began to lose their grip. Fuller advanced down the right and his floating cross was met by Kendall Waston's thumping header. Neuer could only parry the ball back into the danger area, and Yeltsin Tejeda was quickest to the rebound.

Germany piled forward, trying to regain control of their side of the bargain, and they hit the woodwork three times. First Musiala struck the inside of a post from a tight angle. Then Rüdiger's header grazed the outside of a post from Kimmich's cross. Finally, Musiala pinged the upright with a shot from 20 yards.

Incredibly, Costa Rica then took the lead. Joel Campbell's lofted free kick into the box was met at the back post by Waston, whose header was once again too powerful for Neuer to hold. Juan Pablo Vargas bundled the ball over the line and was engulfed by Costa Rica's substitutes — though it went down as a Neuer own goal.

Germany's response was quick, as they found a glimmer of calm quality in this maelstrom of madness. Kai Havertz, on as a substitute, found a perfect pocket of space, received a perfect flick from Füllkrug and coolly lifted the ball over Keylor Navas.

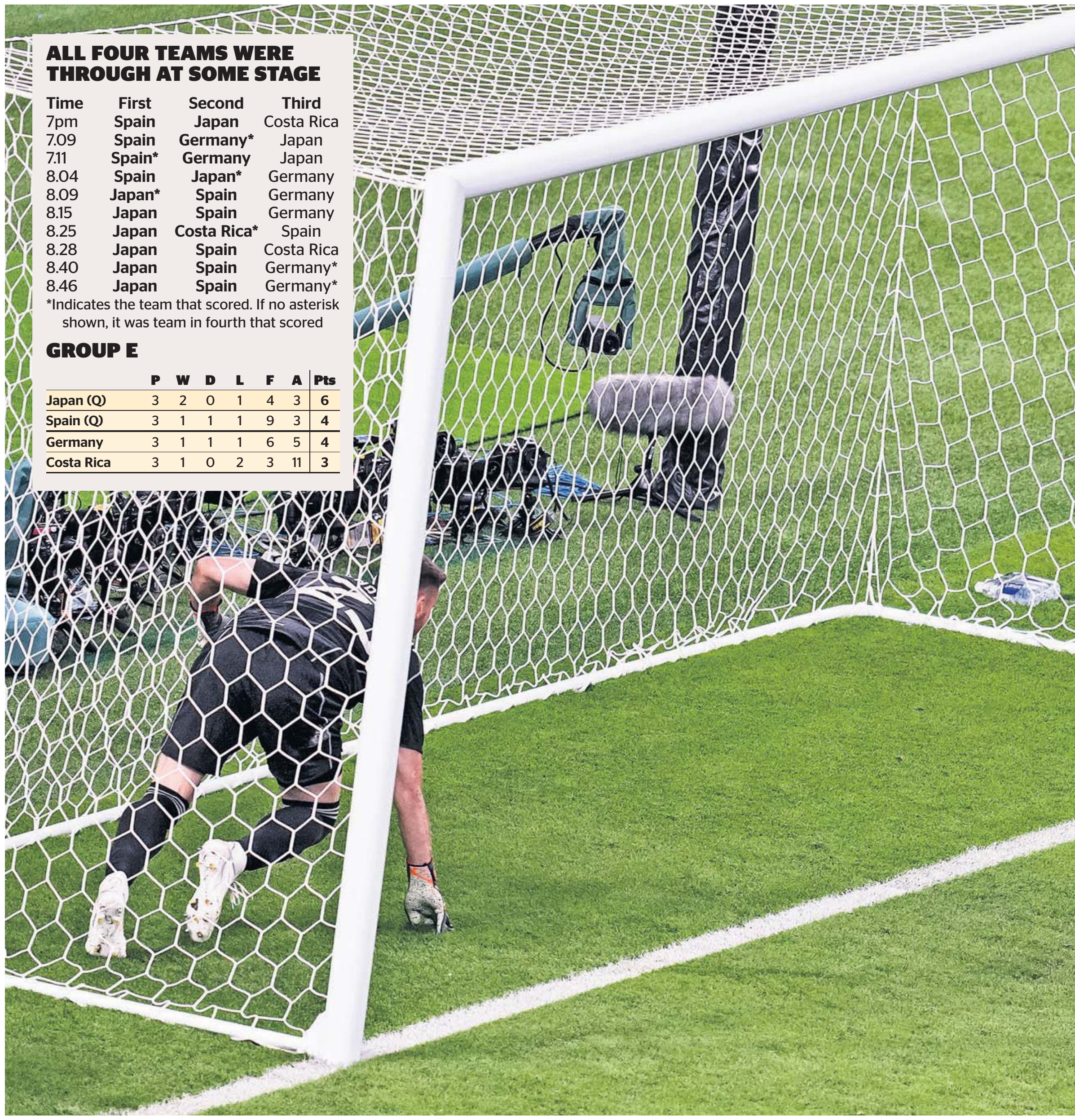
A slick counter ended with Sané sliding a square ball across the goalmouth to Füllkrug, but Navas produced a brilliant save. But then Germany did regain the lead. Havertz and Musiala were running the show at this point, and the former converted Gnabry's cross at the far post. Germany relaxed a little, and promptly scored again. Kimmich lofted a lovely pass to the left of the box, where Sané unselfishly chested the ball across goal to Füllkrug, who finished.

At this stage, Germany only needed a Spanish equaliser, but it never came.

After three games, their World Cup comes to a juddering halt, just as it did four years ago. At times, they have looked like a serious, well-coached outfit. But they are no longer the team who are as reliable as gravity, the team who haunt your dreams. Germany have failed again. Put away the fifth star, and let the inquest be searching and long.



Havertz is not impressed with his post-match award



ALL FOUR TEAMS WERE THROUGH AT SOME STAGE

Time	First	Second	Third
7pm	Spain	Japan	Costa Rica
7.09	Spain	Germany*	Japan
7.11	Spain*	Germany	Japan
8.04	Spain	Japan*	Germany
8.09	Japan*	Spain	Germany
8.15	Japan	Spain	Germany
8.25	Japan	Costa Rica*	Spain
8.28	Japan	Spain	Costa Rica
8.40	Japan	Spain	Germany*
8.46	Japan	Spain	Germany*

*Indicates the team that scored. If no asterisk shown, it was team in fourth that scored

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Spain (Q)	3	1	1	1	9	3	4
Germany	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	11	3

Ignorance spared me a heart

PAUL HIRST
KHALIFA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

For three minutes during a manic, rollercoaster of a second half at the Khalifa Stadium, Spain were heading out of the World Cup.

It is a good job that nobody told Luis Enrique. "If I'd have known, I would have had a heart attack," the Spain head coach said.

From the 80th to the 83rd minute of Costa Rica's match against Germany at the Al Bayt Stadium, the Central American nation were 2-1 up, which meant that Spain, touted as potential champions by some, were on course to finish third in the group.

Enrique was not focused on events an hour up the road because he was too busy yelling at his players. They had played the first half like champions and the second half like chumps.

Shortly after his introduction from the bench, Ritsu Doan cancelled out Álvaro Morata's opening goal and the half-time substitute helped to tee up Ao Tanaka for Japan's second goal three minutes later. The final goal of the evening at the Khalifa Stadium hoisted Japan above Spain at the top of group E. It took an age to award.

Fernando Guerreiro, the Mexican VAR, had the toughest task of the night in determining whether the ball had crossed the byline before Kaoru Mitoma pulled it back for Tanaka to finish. It was hard to envy Guerreiro's position. One camera angle suggested the ball had crossed the line, whereas another appeared to show that the ball was hovering over a couple of blades of grass that had been painted white.

When Guerreiro decided the ball had remained in play, he told Victor Gomes, the South African referee, and the Japan players sprang off the bench to celebrate en masse. The scene was repeated after the final whistle, when Japan's position at the top of the group had been confirmed.

"There were many fans who came here all the way from Japan. This win is for them," Hajime Moriyasu, the Japan head coach, said after setting up a round-of-16 tie against Croatia.

Moriyasu masterminded Japan's win over Germany at the start of the group stage and he deserves credit for turning last night's game around by bringing on Doan and Mitoma at the start of the second half.

Spain, who finished ahead of Germany only on goal difference, may take comfort from the fact that they will play Morocco, rather than Croatia, in the next round, and their path takes them away from Brazil.

But regardless of whom they meet in the rest of this tournament, they will have to perform better than they

Japan	Spain
2	1
Doan 48, Tanaka 51	Morata 11

RATINGS
Japan (3-4-3): **S Gonda** (Shimizu S-Pulse) 7 — **K Itakura** (B Mönchengladbach) 8, **M Yoshida** (Schalke) 8, **S Taniguchi** (Kawasaki Frontale) 7 — **J Ito** (Reims) 7, **H Morita** (S Lisbon) 7, **A Tanaka** (F Düsseldorf 8; **W Endo** Stuttgart) 87), **Y Nagatomo** (FC Tokyo 7; **K Mitoma** Brighton 46, 7) — **D Kamada** (E Frankfurt 7; **T Tomiyasu** Arsenal 69, 6), **D Maeda** (Celtic 7; **T Asano** Bochum 62, 6), **T Kubo** (Real Sociedad 7; **R Doan** Freiburg 46, 9)
Booked Itakura, Taniguchi, Yoshida.

Spain (4-3-3) **U Simón** (A Bilbao) 5 — **C Azpilicueta** (Chelsea 6; **D Carvajal** Real Madrid 46, 5), **Rodri** (Man City) 6, **P Torres** (Villarreal) 5, **Á Balde** (Barcelona 4; **J Alba** (Barcelona 68, 5) — **Gavi** (Barcelona 6; **A Fati** Barcelona 68, 6), **S Busquets** (Barcelona) 6, **Pedri** (Barcelona) 6 — **N Williams** (A Bilbao 5; **F Torres** Barcelona 57, 5), **Á Morata** (At Madrid 8; **M Asensio** (Real Madrid 57, 5), **D Olmo** (RB Leipzig) 7.

Referee V Gomes.
Attendance 44, 855.

Germany's aura attack, says relieved Enrique

THEMBA HADEBE/AP; XINHUA/SHUTTERSTOCK;





Tanaka turns home Japan's winner with his knee, main, after Mitoma's square pass, above — before which the ball appeared to have gone over the byline. The assistant referee on the far side had raised his flag, but the goal stood only after a VAR review

did in the second half here if they are to go all the way.

That Japan won with 17.7 per cent possession, the lowest figure recorded in World Cup history, indicates where Spain went wrong. They were passive in possession. One player shuffled the ball to another in the hope that they would produce some magic, but it never happened. "We didn't produce any danger," Enrique said.

The night started well for Spain. Morata became the first Spain player since 1950 to have scored in the first three group games at a World Cup. Nico Williams's cross was cleared straight to him. He nudged the ball to César Azpilicueta, who whipped over a delightful cross at head height and Morata headed downwards past Shuichi Gonda.

Germany's early goal at the Al Bayt caused Japan to drop to third place.

Spain retained possession, working the triangles between Sergio Busquets, Pedri and Gavi. Dani Olmo threatened out wide.

Daichi Kamada entered the Spain penalty area on a rare Japan attack, but Pau Torres, one of four changes from the team that drew with Germany, blocked his shot. Maya Yoshida then blocked Olmo's shot at the other end.

Japan started to lose their composure towards the end of the first half. All three of their centre backs were booked.

A repeat performance from Spain in the second half would have kept them at the top of the group, but Japan had other ideas.

Three minutes into the second period the match became a contest. Unai Simón put Alejandro Balde under pressure with a poor clearance. Junya Ito beat the full back to the ball and slipped it to Doan, who turned Pedri and let fly with a shot. Simón dived to his left and got a hand to the ball but he could not keep it out.

The despairing Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper was picking the ball out of the net again three minutes later thanks to a mixture of Japanese skill and determination. Doan provided the skill, beating Balde before sending over a low teasing cross.

Mitoma added the determination. He sprinted and stretched to hook the delivery back into the six-yard area. Tanaka showed great desire too, surging forward to tap in from five yards. The lengthy VAR review caused anxiety in the stands, but finally the goal was given.

"From my angle the ball was clearly half out but I could not see properly because of the speed of it all," Tanaka said. "I was concentrating on scoring."

As news of Costa Rica's resurgence reached the Khalifa, a tense atmosphere took hold. Enrique brought on three Barcelona players and two from Real Madrid, but still Japan held strong. Luckily for Enrique, Germany equalised, then moved 4-2 ahead to knock Costa Rica out of the running. Germany did not have time to score the six goals they needed to better Spain's goal difference and they went out.



Dozens of photographers gather to capture Japan's wild celebrations

PETER WALTON



Former Premier League Referee

The controversy comes from seeing certain angles on TV, where the whole of the ball appears to be over the line. But what is important is the curvature of the ball that overhangs the line as the ball will not be perfectly round all the time.

The angle the VAR officials would work from is the image they got from the goalline technology, which is an angle from above. After studying that image, there are only two reasons why they would allow the goal. One, if they can show that the whole of the ball definitely has not crossed the line — which we haven't seen, but VAR officials must have — or if their view is obscured, so they cannot say categorically that the whole of the ball crossed the line.

Ghana coach defends Suárez over handball

PAUL HIRST
DOHA

Luis Suárez inflamed tensions before today's decisive group H game between Uruguay and Ghana by refusing to apologise for the handball that knocked the African nation out of the 2010 World Cup.

But Suárez found an unlikely ally in the Ghana head coach Otto Addo, who said that the Uruguay striker had acted in a "normal" manner when he blocked a goalbound shot with his hand in the final minute of extra time in the quarter-final, with score at 1-1.

"This is what I wish from every player — to do all he can to help his team qualify and sometimes even sacrifice himself with a red card," Addo, 47, said.

Suárez was sent off in Johannesburg after palming away Dominic Adiyiah's effort, but Asamoah Gyan missed the resulting spot-kick, and Uruguay went through to the last four instead of Ghana after winning a penalty shoot-out.

Suárez was told by a reporter yesterday that many in Ghana view him as "El Diablo" (the devil) and invited the 35-year-old former Liverpool striker to apologise for his actions in 2010, but he would not do so. "The first time, I didn't apologise about that [incident]," Suárez, who is now a free agent after leaving Nacional, said. "I did the handball but it was the Ghana player [Gyan] who missed the penalty, not me.

"Maybe I would apologise if I made a tackle and injured a player, but [not] in this situation.

"I took a red card, the referee gave a penalty, but it is not my fault [Ghana were knocked out] because I didn't miss the penalty. The [Ghana] player did.

"It's not the same. It is not my responsibility to shoot the penalty."

Suárez's words are likely to anger the Ghanaian people, who know that victory for their team will send them through to the round of 16 at Uruguay's expense.

Gyan, 37, who was left out of the Ghana squad for this World Cup, recently described Suárez as a "cheat" and said that "people [in Ghana] hate him".

Suárez, on the other hand, played down the idea that the Ghana players will be motivated by revenge. The captain, André Ayew, is the only survivor from the 2010 squad.

"[Some of] the players who play tomorrow will have been eight years old when it happened," Suárez added.

Suárez said it was his decision to put himself forward to speak to the media before the match.

The 2010 incident is not the first time he has courted controversy in his career. Four years later, he bit Giorgio Chiellini, the Italy defender.

Suárez was found guilty by the FA of racially abusing Patrice Evra and was accused of biting another two players, Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic and PSV Eindhoven's Otman Bakkal during the striker's time at Ajax.



Suarez refused to apologise for his infamous handball against Ghana

Suárez was keen not to dwell too much on his past misdemeanours, however. "With Chiellini, I made a mistake and we shook hands," he said.

"You can't just keep thinking about the past and revenge because that can be counterproductive."

Ten minutes after Suárez and the Uruguay head coach Diego Alonso had left the stage in the press auditorium at the media centre in Doha, Addo and the Ghana midfielder, Thomas Partey, took questions on the matter in the same room. "It will always be in our minds but this is a different game," Partey, 29, said. "I was very young when it happened. It was a game of football, anything can happen.

"We had the chance to score the penalty. We were unlucky. We go into this game well prepared and we know what we have to do to win."

Addo became annoyed at one point after being asked several times about the events in South Africa. "Can we try not to keep going back to 2010 please?" he said at one point.

Addo clearly felt that all the talk about that incident 12 years ago would distract his team from their important task in hand.

The Uruguay team should be easier opponents this time around. The likes of Suárez and Edinson Cavani are no longer in their prime and Ghana are on a high after their impressive 3-2 win over South Korea.

Addo's team sit second in group H, three points behind already-qualified leaders Portugal and two in front of South Korea and Uruguay. They will be certain of reaching the knockout stage with a victory or a draw if South Korea fail to beat Portugal, but a defeat will send them home.

The significance of the occasion has not been lost on Addo, who combines his job as Ghana head coach with a role on the backroom staff of Borussia Dortmund. "Africa is an exploited continent in history," Addo said. "A lot of things went wrong and against us so we need to raise ourselves. Football is just one element that can help people that are suffering in Ghana, and in the rest of Africa."

Ghana v Uruguay
Al Janoub Stadium
Group H
Today, 3pm
TV: BBC 2
Radio: talkSPORT 2

‘They love my bald head – maybe it brought us luck’

Canada	Morocco
1	2
Aguerd (og) 40	Ziyech 4 En-Nesyri 23

RATINGS
Canada (4-4-2): **M Borjan** (Red Star Belgrade) 7 — **A Johnston** (Montreal) 6, **S Vitória** (Chaves) 6, **K Miller** (Montreal) 7, **S Adekugbe** (Hatayspor 6; **I Kone** Montreal 61, 7) — **J Osorio** (Toronto FC 6; **R Laryea** Nottm Forest 66, 6), **M Kaye** (Toronto FC 7; **A Hutchinson** Besiktas 60, 7) — **A Davies** (Bayern Munich) 8, **J Hoilett** (Reading 7; **D Wotherspoon** St Johnstone 76), **T Buchanan** (Club Bruges) 6 — **C Larin** (Club Bruges 6; **J David** Lille 60, 6). **Booked** Hoilett, Osorio, Adekugbe, Vitoria.

Morocco (4-3-3): **Y Bounou** (Sevilla) 6 — **A Hakimi** (PSG 8; **Y Attiat-Allah** Wydad 85), **N Aguerd** (West Ham) 6, **R Saiss** (Besiktas) 7, **N Mazaroui** (Bayern Munich) 6 — **A Ounahi** (Angers 6; **J Yamiq** Real Valladolid 77), **S Ambrabat** (Fiorentina) 7, **A Sabiri** (Sampdoria 6; **S Amallah** Standard Liege 65, 5) — **H Ziyech** (Chelsea 8; **A Hamdallah** Al-Ittihad 76), **Y En-Nesyri** (Sevilla) 7, **S Boufal** (Angers 7; **Z Aboukhlal** Toulouse 65, 6).

Referee R Claus (Br).
Attendance 43,102.

RICHARD HEATHCOTE/GETTY IMAGES



The victorious Morocco team throw their coach, Regragui, into the air, having repeatedly slapped his head in jubilation

MARTIN HARDY
AL THUMAMA STADIUM

The impromptu circle of celebration started with the slapping of the head of the Morocco coach, Walid Regragui. More men in white ran to join in. The balding head of Regragui, who was dressed in a blue suit with big white trainers, became a symbol of good luck. Slap, slap, slap. He smiled more with each hit.

All the while, those Moroccan players grabbed and hugged each other. The group grew. Regragui was suddenly being picked up and thrown into the air. His side had just finished as the unlikely winners of a group that contained two countries — Croatia and Belgium — who had finished second and third respectively in the 2018 World Cup. They had reached the round of 16 for the first time since 1986.

The stands of the Al Thumama Stadium were a moving red sea of fans. The national flag of Morocco was waved wherever you looked. A vociferous rendition of “Olé, Olé, Olé” had swept around the stands. The magic of the World Cup. Achraf Hakimi, the Paris Saint-Germain defender, stood in tears.



En-Nesyri celebrates his superb solo goal that took Morocco into a 2-0 lead

“I cry because I see my family and I see my kid,” he said. “I never dreamt to do something for my country. To play with Morocco is something amazing and also to do something big in your country is more than to do it in your club. Today we make history. The coach has done an amazing job.”

Regragui spoke of his magic head. “They love touching it,” he said. “Maybe it brings them luck.

“In Morocco I fought for these results. I was talking about changing the mindset and we didn’t just come to play, we wanted to qualify. My players fought and fought. I am happy and I am happy for my players and they trusted in me and their country. We are together. We aim for the sky.”

Morocco had looked as electric as the crowd in the first half, charging into a 2-0 lead. Not four minutes had been played when Steven Vitória left a back-pass short to Milan Borjan. There were still plenty of pathways clear from danger, but the goalkeeper went for the wrong option, taking a touch to set himself on a dribble upfield. His first touch was awful, sending the ball way out of his path and into the feet of Hakim Ziyech, and the Chelsea man picked his spot beautifully with a first-time finish from 30 yards that sailed over Borjan’s head and into the Canada goal.

The pass for the second goal was a thing of beauty, Hakimi bending a superb, 50-yard ball down the Morocco right that dissected the two Canadian central defenders, Kamal Miller and Vitória. The duo wore a look of desperation as they turned and chased towards their own goal, aware they had lost a race with the forward Youssef En-Nesyri.

There was still work to be done. En-Nesyri, however, had momentum and desire and he touched the ball down with the inside of his left thigh at pace before cracking a right-footed shot into the corner.

Full credit to Canada, who leave their first World Cup in 36 years still waiting for the nation’s first point at the finals. They fought back in the 40th minute when Alphonso Davies’s cross was turned into his own goal by Nayef Aguerd.

It was all Canada after the break. The 39-year-old Atiba Hutchinson, who had been on the field for only 12 minutes, saw a powerful header crash off the underside of the Moroccan crossbar and bounce back off the goalline in the 72nd minute. A replay later showed that more than half the ball was over the line. Those are the margins.

The Moroccans went to five at the back. Their boisterous fans rallied once more. History beckoned.

United on alert as Atletico set to offload £86m Félix

TOM ALLNUTT

Atletico Madrid will listen to offers for João Félix in January, with Manchester United among the clubs interested in the Portugal forward.

United met Félix’s agent Jorge Mendes in the summer to discuss a move for the 23-year-old but Atletico Madrid were then adamant he was not for sale.

Félix’s tense relationship with Diego Simeone has deteriorated in recent months, though, and Atletico are ready to cut their losses on a player they signed from Benfica for €127 million in 2019.

The Spanish club cannot expect to recoup that amount but the hope is that Félix’s performances at the World Cup will serve as a reminder of his huge potential, with interested clubs being sounded out over a deal worth €100 million (about £86 million).

United and Bayern Munich have retained a strong interest in Félix, while Barcelona have long been keen, but cannot afford such a hefty fee. The La Liga side proposed a swap deal for Félix involving Antoine Griezmann last year, which Atletico swiftly rejected.

Félix was one of the most highly rated youngsters in the world when he joined Atletico, having scored 15 league goals in his only season in the Benfica first team, as he helped the Portuguese club win the Primeira Liga.

There have been glimpses of Félix’s obvious talent in Spain, where he has scored 33 goals in 129 games. He scored six goals in four matches in the middle of Atletico’s title-winning season in 2020-21, one of a number of hot streaks that eventually fizzled out.

Overall, Félix has struggled to fulfil his potential at Atletico, where his free-flowing style has proved an awkward fit with Simeone, who demands that even his attackers prioritise defensive duties. The overwhelming sense is that Simeone has never fully trusted Félix while the player believes another coach would make better use of his creativity.

Félix has started only five of Atletico’s 14 league games this season, although he scored four goals in as many games before joining up with Portugal. He then scored in the 3-2 win over Ghana in the group stage.



United can expect to compete with Bayern for Félix’s signature

VIEW FROM THE SOFA

GEORGE LEWIS



I tuned into BBC One and watched a pride of lions hunting down and killing an antelope before feasting on its carcass. Either the coverage of the football was starting late or they were really committing to their pre-match metaphors.

But soon enough, the BBC World Cup opening titles kicked in and we were with our own three lions — Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Micah Richards. Didier Drogba was there too, adding to the upbeat mood in the studio, even if he disrupted the neatness of the animal metaphor.

When you watch the coverage every day, the pundits end up feeling like your work colleagues and yesterday felt as though it would be a great day in the office. Everyone was in a good mood. Romelu Lukaku had been replaced by Dries Mertens for Belgium, which set Gary up for a joke he couldn’t resist, but probably should have: “If they lose this, it will be Dries Mertens for them won’t it… curtains”. If we were in the office, Gary has assumed the role of David Brent. But who doesn’t love David Brent?

The big talk going into Croatia v Belgium was the chaos in the Belgium camp. There were reports of an unsettled squad, rumours of a training ground bust-up and constant chatter about their wasted golden generation. (It’s so nice to write those words about a team other than England.)

I had been burnt the night before by flicking between the channels in an effort to catch all the action and somehow missing everything, so yesterday I decided to pick the Croatia v Belgium game and stick with it. Within minutes, the goals started flying in. In the other game.

While over here on BBC One, we had what Gary said might be the worst match of the tournament. Micah said it was bleak. Alan said it was rubbish. Didier said, “It’s not been an easy game to watch,” so he didn’t.

At half-time they showed a replay of what could have been the fastest World Cup goal ever. But it wasn’t, because it went two feet wide. Alan said: “Can you tell we’ve got nothing to talk about?”

The best bit about half-time was the highlights of the other match. The one I chose not to watch. The second half was slightly better, but only because you had a feeling there was going to be a late goal. There wasn’t. And so, it was Dries Mertens for Belgium. (Curtains.)

Gary’s closing line was: “Every now and again you get a game that isn’t worthy of a closing line.”

Awful game, but a refreshingly honest view from the team in the studio.

Coverage rating: 6/10

Lukaku flops and Martínez quits

Croatia	Belgium
0	0

RATINGS
Croatia (4-3-3): **D Livakovic** (Dinamo Zagreb) 6 — **J Juranovic** (Celtic) 6, **D Lovren** (Zenit Saint Petersburg) 6, **J Gvardiol** (RB Leipzig) 7, **B Sosa** (Stuttgart) 7 — **L Modric** (Real Madrid) 7, **M Brozovic** (Inter Milan) 7, **M Kovacic** (Chelsea 7; **L Majer** Rennes, 90+2) — **M Livaja** (Hajduk Split 6; **B Petkovic** 64, 6), **A Kramaric** (Hoffenheim 6; **M Pasalic** Atalanta 64, 6), **I Perisic** (Tottenham Hotspur) 7.

Belgium (3-4-3): **T Courtois** (Real Madrid) 7 — **L Dendoncker** (Aston Villa 6; **Y Tielemans** Leicester 72), **T Alderweireld** (Royal Antwerp) 6, **J Vertonghen** (Anderlecht) 7 — **T Meunier** (Borussia Dortmund 6; **E Hazard** Real Madrid 87), **A Witsel** (Atletico Madrid) 6, **K De Bruyne** (Manchester City) 7, **T Castagne** (Leicester City) 6 — **L Trossard** (Brighton 7; **T Hazard** Borussia Dortmund 59, 6), **D Mertens** (Galatasaray 6; **R Lukaku** Inter Milan 46, 5), **Y Carrasco** (Atletico Madrid 6; **J Doku**, Rennes, 72). **Booked** Dendoncker.

Referee A Taylor (England).
Attendance 43,984.

GARY JACOB
AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM

ROLEX DELA PENA/EPA



GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Croatia (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
Belgium	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Canada	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Lukaku hits the post after Carrasco's shot was blocked. The striker missed three sitters as Belgium crashed out — and he punched the dugout in despair at full-time, inset

Romelu Lukaku's three glaring misses and a punch that broke a dugout were followed by Roberto Martínez standing down. Belgium's dreadful World Cup campaign ended in disharmony as Croatia got the draw they needed and finished runners-up in group F.

More exits are likely to follow, spelling the end of Belgium's golden generation of players who never made it to a final. They were knocked out by the eventual winners in the 2018 World Cup and Euro 2020 as well as last year's Nations League. There are decisions to take for Jan Vertonghen and Dries Mertens, both 35, Toby Alderweireld and Axel Witsel, both 33, and Eden Hazard, 31.

Martínez is relentlessly positive and painted a picture of having already decided that this tournament would be his last when his contract ends next month. He doubles as the Belgium technical director. His six years in charge ended with him axing his captain, Hazard, days after accounts emerged of a farcical spat between the forward and Vertonghen over who was slower. The fans decided which side they were on and Hazard was booed after coming off the bench in the 87th minute.

Martínez has been eyeing a return to the Premier League as his next adventure. In the past couple of years, his name was put forward for vacancies at Everton, his former club, and Tottenham Hotspur.

"It has nothing to do with being eliminated at this stage, I took the decision before the World Cup," Martínez, 49, said. "I work in the long term. I had opportunities to take jobs at clubs, I always wanted to be loyal, finish the job. The first two games, we were fearful, we listened to the noise on the outside and we were feeling the responsibility. We played thinking that we could lose the game and that we could be out and that's what cost us progressing.

"If we had gone through, we would have seen the real Belgium and we could have been very competitive."

Those first two games were an unconvincing 1-0 win over Canada followed by the fatal 2-0 defeat by Morocco. It meant that only a victory would do against Croatia, and Martínez picked the second-oldest side in World Cup history, with an average age of 31 years and 95 days.

Mertens has been a favourite for Martínez but after the forward wasted one golden chance, he was replaced at the break by Lukaku, whose impact was not as intended.

The striker walked off and punched the plastic at the side of the dugout, having wasted five close-range attempts — three of which were sitters. The worst of his efforts came in the last minute. Lukaku was in position to head Thorgan Hazard's cross into a gaping goal but he inexplicably chested the ball into the arms of the goalkeeper from close in.

Lukaku had no excuse, even if he has only recently returned from thigh and hamstring problems that have plagued his return to Inter Milan, where he moved on loan after an unhappy season at Chelsea.

There was time to make amends two minutes later when he was poised to shoot but the ball was hooked off his toe from a few yards out.

Earlier, Lukaku had pounced on a rebound before shooting against a post after Yannick Carrasco's shot was blocked, and he flicked wide when meeting Thomas Meunier's attempted cross-shot. To complete the set he headed over an empty net, not knowing that it would have been ruled out as the ball went behind the byline.

Martínez handed Kevin De Bruyne the armband and looked to him for inspiration. De Bruyne drove from deep and released Mertens, who shot over, and later fed Carrasco, who should have done better. De Bruyne has not looked himself for the past month. He was poor when Manchester City lost to Brentford in the last game before the break, and admitted that he should not have been voted man of the match in the win over Canada. The Belgian media have highlighted him gesticulating at Martínez and being aloof during a pep talk.

2.86%
Belgium's shot conversion rate (one goal, 35 shots), their lowest at a World Cup since 1966

Belgium began in jittery fashion, and Ivan Perisic fired wide after ten seconds as Croatia quickly escaped on their left. Martínez's side were then handed a reprieve when a penalty was awarded by Anthony Taylor after Carrasco hung out a lazy leg to trip Andrej Kramaric, only for VAR to deem that Dejan Lovren was offside and interfering with play at Modric's initial free kick.

Croatia realised they needed to win to top the group after Morocco led. Marko Livaja headed over and Modric, twice, and Marcelo Brozovic forced saves from Thibaut Courtois. They had to settle for a draw, however, and went through in second place. For Belgium's golden generation, this was simply a tournament too far.

VIEW FROM BACK HOME

ALYSON RUDD

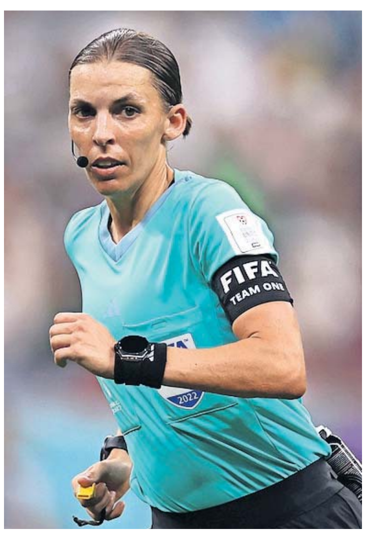


What I most wanted was a night off from maths having spent an inordinate amount of time the previous evening in heated debate as to why Saudi Arabia's goal against Mexico meant, contrary to the commentary, nothing at all.

Mexico had needed an extra goal and they still needed one. The notion that it could have come down to the drawing of lots was greeted with howls of derision in my house. If no one is all that far away from anyone else, then why not arrange a penalty shoot-out or, at the very least, rock, paper, scissors over Zoom.

We decided to switcheroo once again for last night's games but I maybe took that a bit too seriously when I flicked between the national anthems. Spain v Japan promised a better quality of football, but I was also drawn to the first all-female refereeing team at a World Cup, led by Stéphanie Frappart, for Germany's must-win game against Costa Rica.

Yes, there are adverts on ITV but the break gives the channel the excuse to show us their fabulous graphics. Those hot air balloons decked out in the nations' colours and biplanes flying flags over the desert sands are rather beautiful. Overall, it seems as if ITV have given their coverage a lot of care and attention. The shifting from game to game with a split screen was handled effortlessly.



Frappart made World Cup history with her all-female team of match officials

Graeme Souness purred at half time like a sleepy, full of fish cat over the fluidity of Spain and bemoaned how England look nothing as cohesive. This had a retro feel to it. Now that we can watch the top European leagues all the time and have an overload of European competitions, differing styles should feel far less exotic yet here was the former Liverpool captain behaving as if he had spent the day being wooed at an evangelist meeting.

The double act of Clive Tyldesley and Ally McCoist is our sofa's favourite so we stuck with Souness's beloved Spain for the restart and were rewarded almost immediately with a Japan equalizer. If only there had been a purrometer in the corner of the screen. On the other hand, it would have been little use in explaining why Japan's second goal was allowed given the ball was out of play to the naked eye.

Tyldesley pointed out mischievously that this Spanish vulnerability had not been foreseen among the studio pundits.

There was lots of maths going on, but the fun sort. A Costa Rica goal would mean Spain were out of the competition. When that goal came, McCoist laughed hysterically. There has never been such a World Cup night of upheaval but the not so silky Spaniards survived.

More importantly the tidiest nation at this tournament progressed too and by the most slender of margins. I hope Japan, as well as folding all the towels and sweeping the floors, leave behind origami tokens of VAR appreciation in their dressing room.

Grealish perfects role of sho



Mortified by his dad's bow tie, regretful about belittling Almirón and insightful about his City education and Bernardo's lessons in "showing balls", England's entertainer enthrals **Henry Winter**

Jack Grealish is almost as much fun to listen to as to watch. He's brilliant company, spending almost half an hour bewitching a small audience after training at Al Wakrah yesterday. He stands up to imitate Ederson and Bernardo Silva risking an almighty press by playing out from Manchester City's goalmouth. He sits back and reflects on his contrition towards Miguel Almirón, whom he'd belittled. He shakes his head in disbelief at his father's Union Jack waistcoat. Grealish gives thanks to his mother for demanding the patriotic pater at least remove his Union Jack bow tie.

Anyone who spends any time in Grealish's engaging company is left with the indelible impression that he would not be quite such an expressive player if he didn't have such an extrovert personality. He's the crowd-pleaser with a touch of Ibiza. He does things instinctively, a joy on the field, yet bringing occasional scrapes off it.

A hugely sociable individual, the attacking wide player signed from Aston Villa for £100 million has a desire to entertain friends in private as well as fans in a ground. At 27, Grealish's a showman but not a show-off, a subtle difference.

He loves life. He loves what magic he can conjure up with a football. He makes people laugh. He makes even the ball smile. A video of Grealish's "no-bounce" volleying extravaganza in the England gym with his City team-mate Phil Foden has five millions views a week after being posted by the FA. "Too right. Did you see the tekkers?" Grealish says. "Me and Phil do that all the time. It just comes natural to us.

"Luke Shaw said to me, 'When I come away with England you can tell who the City lads are.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'You always have a ball, you always want a ball.' It's true. Me, even Kyle [Walker], Phil, we're just always wanting a ball. Lads will just be doing stretches [at Al Wakrah], getting ready for training or playing basketball and me and Phil will just be playing two-touch.

"We get that from being at City. At Villa you'd be sitting there on phones, then at City you're sitting there and balls are flying across the changing room. People playing two-touch. It's the culture at City, where everyone just loves to have a football and we bring that here.

"One of the best players I've played with — and he's changed the way I see football — is Bernardo Silva. The way his brain works is crazy. He'll go and get the ball off the 'keeper and dribble with it from the six-yard box. I remember one game last season: the manager told Bernardo to come get the ball off Ederson. So Ederson puts the ball down, gives it to Bernardo, who goes off on his little dribble around. I was like. 'What the f*** does this c*** think he's doing! He thinks it's school football.' It was unbelievable. But he is unbelievable. The way he takes the ball under pressure.

"Pep says he wants us to show balls, wanting the ball under pressure when the opposition crowd are against you at Anfield when everyone's whistling and you're saying, 'Give me the ball.' That's Bernardo in a nutshell. That's what I think I do a little bit."

He's improved under Guardiola. "Technically, I'm better. But it's so much more difficult than I thought. At Villa there wasn't really a lot of expectation, but as soon as you go to a club challenging for stuff and for the price tag I went for, there's so much expectation. I could have three bad games at Villa and I don't think anyone would say a word. Now at City, you're on BT and Sky every week, you have one bad 60 minutes and everyone's saying, 'He's not playing well.'

"It was different at Villa because Dean Smith [then the head coach] used to say to me, 'Go wherever you think is their weak link. Play off the cuff,' because that's the type of player I am. City is much more structured — a year later I'm still getting used to it.

"You'll find it hard to meet someone who loves football and loves having a ball at his feet as much as me. Steve [Holland] or Gareth [Southgate] every day they have to say to me, 'Come on, Jack, get in now, get off the training pitch.' I'm living my dream. I like to enjoy myself and I just go with the flow. But I do do some f***ing stupid stuff sometimes that I do regret."

> "At Villa, we were on our phones. At City, it's two-touch and we all want the ball

Oh yes, Almirón. A rather refreshed Grealish mocked the Newcastle United attacker's abilities, and the taunt has returned to haunt him with Almirón playing so well now. "Let me just address it," Grealish says. "It was the day after the season finished and I'd had a few drinks. I do stupid stuff. I regret that.

"I messaged Matt Targett, because I'm close with him from Villa, and said, 'Can you message him for me and say I apologise? I didn't mean it.' He just said, 'Jack, he's a lovely kid, he's harmless and doesn't really speak a lot of English. He won't really be bothered.' I shouldn't have said it. I didn't realise it was a video to go out, I thought it was just private. But even in private I shouldn't have said it because he's a fellow professional. I've had a lot of stick off the Newcastle fans and rightly so.

"I'm actually buzzing the way he's reacted. He said something about me in an interview the other day — he wished me the best. I thought, 'What a guy,' because if that was me and somebody said that about me, I'd have been the other way and been like, 'F*** it.' He seems like the most harmless, nice guy, so fair play. If I ever played against him, I'd show him the most respect. I genuinely hope he does keep scoring, as long as those Newcastle fans stop messaging me."

His thoughts turn back to the World Cup. "The first game we were brilliant and were the best thing since sliced veg [an in-house England joke]. We scored the six goals [against Iran] and then draw one game [the United States] and I remember reading some stuff about how we were dismal and thinking, 'F***ing hell, give us a break.' We've got seven points, two clean sheets, and scored nine goals.

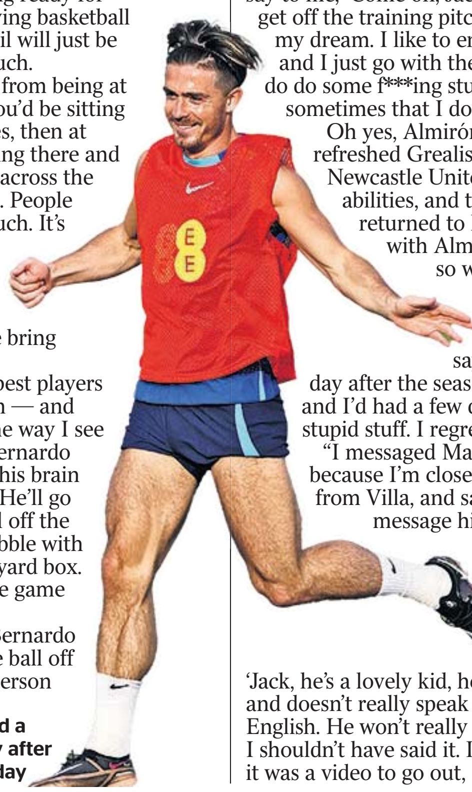
"When I come here I love the group of lads, I love the staff, I love the bond we have. All the lads say to me if we're drawing at half-time, 'Make sure you're ready,' and it makes you feel they want you, it makes me feel good. I'd love to start, but I do appreciate that there are other players in my position: Saks [Bukayo Saka], Phil... other players who are world-class."

He feels for Southgate. "No matter what he does he's never going to win, because if Phil doesn't start, it's, 'Aw, Phil's gotta start,' if Rashy [Marcus Rashford] doesn't start, it's, 'Aw, Rashy's on fire, he's gotta start.' He's proved himself a brilliant manager."

In reaching the round of 16, where England play Senegal on Sunday, the players have been across to see their families after group-stage games, including Grealish to his fashion-conscious father. "I said, 'What you wearing there?' He had a little bow tie as well, but my mum told him to take it off. It looks like something from the market, doesn't it? He keeps wearing it as well. He thinks it's his lucky charm. But it's nice we can go and see them after the games to spend some time with them."

His 19-year-old sister, Hollie, has cerebral palsy and restricted vision. "She's been to the games but she can only see from here to those sofas over there [he points to 15 yards away]. She'd never be able to see me because she's visually impaired. She just sits there on her iPad, she's addicted to *Coronation Street*, so she watches *Coronation Street* from 1998."

Grealish promised Finlay, an 11-year-old City fan with cerebral palsy, that he would do a dance for him if he scored out here in Qatar. He kept his promise after striking against Iran, a heartwarming tribute. "That's natural, I don't do that for any clout," Grealish explains. "I do that because that's what I feel I'm good at sometimes. Because I can relate to it with my little sister. He'll go back to school and he'll be really popular. I've been brought up well. I've got a good heart. I've done stupid stuff but everything that I do good is from my heart."



Grealish showed a gift for mimicry after training yesterday



JORDAN HENDERSON

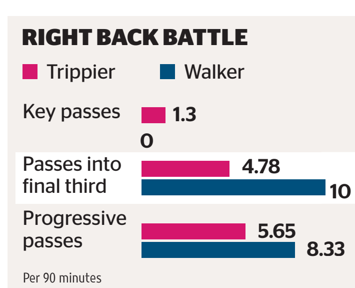
HAVE YOUR SAY?

Think you could pick the England team? Make your selections at right back, midfield and up front by voting in our online polls at **thetimes.co.uk/sport/football/world-cup**

SECURITY OR CREATIVITY?

Kyle Walker is a favourite of Gareth Southgate's and for good reason too: he offers a get-out-of-jail card to his team-mates, with his game-saving acceleration and pace at the back. However, Kieran Trippier brings an extra dimension to England with his passing range and proficiency on set pieces, where he is a genuine goal-scoring option and almost unmatched in the squad for dead-ball delivery.

In open play, Walker offers progression upfield, but not the same quality of chance creation as Trippier. As the graphic below shows, Trippier has made more key passes but Walker has, overall, made more passes into the final third of the pitch.

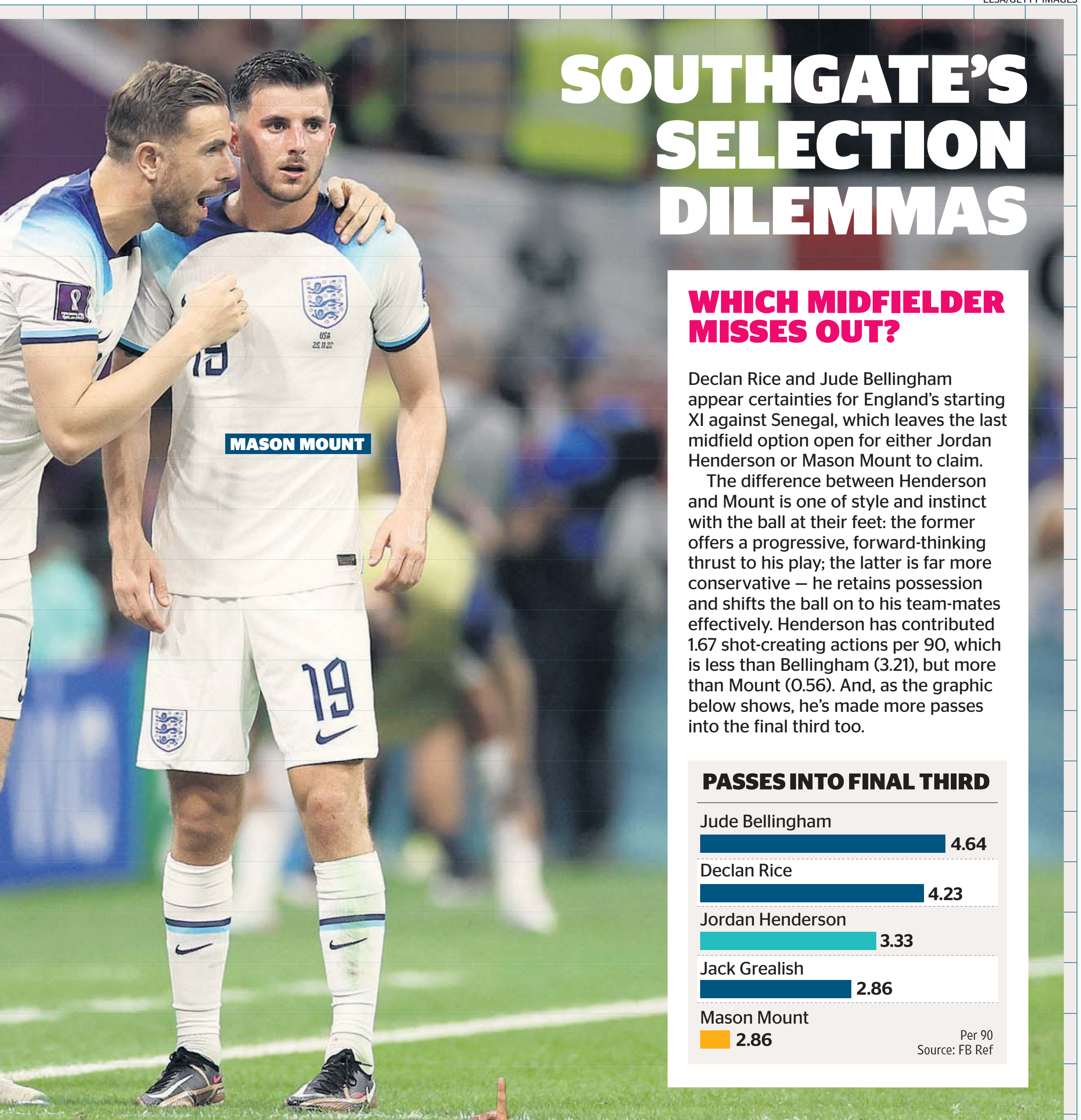




KYLE WALKER

owman rather than show-off

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES



SOUTHGATE'S SELECTION DILEMMAS

WHICH MIDFIELDER MISSES OUT?

Declan Rice and Jude Bellingham appear certainties for England's starting XI against Senegal, which leaves the last midfield option open for either Jordan Henderson or Mason Mount to claim.

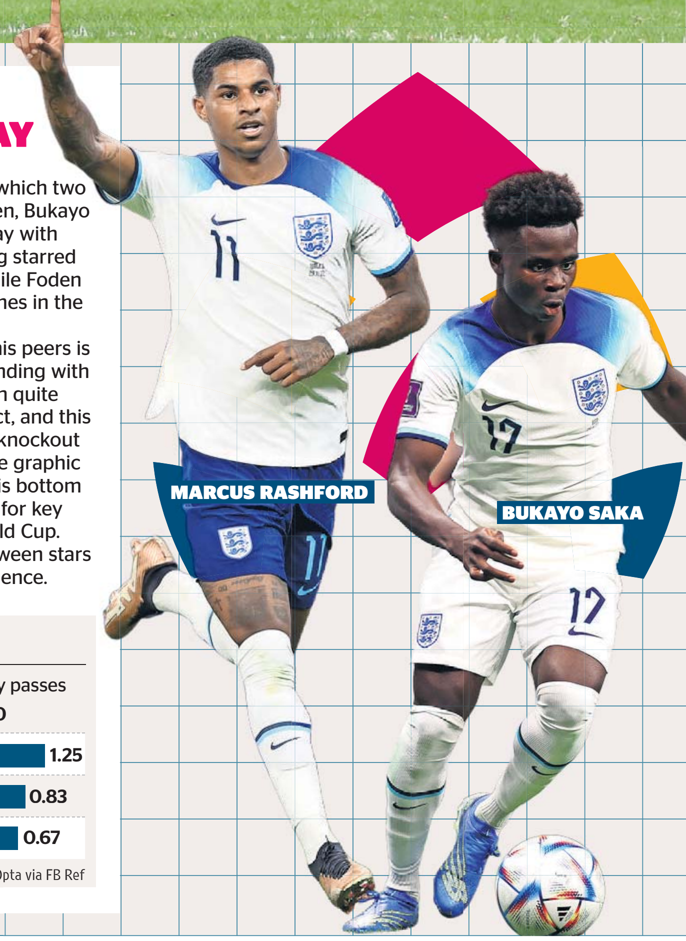
The difference between Henderson and Mount is one of style and instinct with the ball at their feet: the former offers a progressive, forward-thinking thrust to his play; the latter is far more conservative — he retains possession and shifts the ball on to his team-mates effectively. Henderson has contributed 1.67 shot-creating actions per 90, which is less than Bellingham (3.21), but more than Mount (0.56). And, as the graphic below shows, he's made more passes into the final third too.

PASSES INTO FINAL THIRD

Player	Per 90
Jude Bellingham	4.64
Declan Rice	4.23
Jordan Henderson	3.33
Jack Grealish	2.86
Mason Mount	2.86

Per 90
Source: FB Ref





FOUR STARS, ONLY TWO PLAY

The toughest decision of all; which two of Marcus Rashford, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Raheem Sterling play with Harry Kane? Saka and Sterling starred in the 6-2 win against Iran while Foden and Rashford took the headlines in the 3-0 win against Wales.

What Sterling has over all his peers is experience and an understanding with Harry Kane that none can quite emulate to such effect, and this could be crucial in a knockout game. However, as the graphic below shows, Sterling is bottom for goals and second-bottom for key passes of the four at this World Cup. Southgate faces a choice between stars in form and those with experience.

WING VARIETY

	Goals	Key passes
M Rashford	2.50	0
B Saka	1.23	1.25
P Foden	0.82	0.83
R Sterling	0.66	0.67

Key passes per 90 minutes
Source: Opta via FB Ref

England reap benefits from lack of 'baggage'

PAUL JOYCE

Gareth Southgate has always cited the absence of baggage that weighed down previous England sides as one of the crucial factors behind his team's improved performances at major tournaments. The familiar, anticlimactic diet of quarter-final exits, fuelled by indiscipline or penalty shoot-out failures, would be intertwined with struggles which prompted group-stage elimination and then the ignominy of Iceland in Euro 2016.

Upon arriving in Russia four years ago, Southgate spied an opportunity to change that mood. "This team shouldn't be burdened with it because they're a fresh group," he said before the previous World Cup.

The squad in Qatar is not dissimilar in some respects. The squad boasts an average age of 26 years and 352 days when, in 2018, it was 26 years and 23 days, but the difference lies in the wealth of experience they possess.

Southgate's 23-man squad arrived in Russia with 482 caps between them. By the time they took part in Euro 2020 the number of games had risen to 542, albeit with a squad of 26.

Before these finals, the amount of caps in the England squad had swelled to 820. It is quite the leap with Raheem Sterling, who will hope to claim his 82nd cap against Senegal, the most experienced. The tally was still below Belgium with a whopping 1,340 caps between them, Brazil (944), Germany (899) and France (898). Each of those countries can call upon several 100-cap players. Still, the average number of caps per England player is 32 and only once before have they travelled to a World Cup boasting more than that. That was 36 caps at South Africa in 2010.

Eighteen members of this squad know what it is like to win a knockout game. They can refer back to the landmarks of 2018, where they overcame their penalty hoodoo to beat Colombia in the round of 16 before another shoot-out win against Switzerland to finish third in the Nations League finals in 2019 .

Euro 2020 brought its own highs and if there was, ultimately, the gut-wrenching low of losing in the final, the last, glorious step does not look nearly as far away as it did under previous coaches.

It is understandable that Southgate has sought to keep the group together. There are only five players at the World Cup who were not in the Euro 2020 squad — Callum Wilson, James Maddison, Conor Gallagher, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Eric Dier. The latter two were both in Russia.

"I would argue across 18 months that five is quite a big turnaround," he said. "Most international teams wouldn't change much more than four or five players over 18 months.

"I know people talk about being overly loyal but you have to have some consistency in your thinking because without having that consistency then others can't come in and thrive

"There will be a number of players who will be better for the experience that they've had but they now have to show it on the biggest stage."

It is now up to England to show that rather than being scarred by tournament experiences, they are actually spurred on by them.

'You only get one career' – Rice's European ambitions

TOM RODDY

Declan Rice has revealed that deception lurks within the England squad. Lies are told every night at the team's Al Wakrah base, where nobody knows who to trust any more. Unlike England camps of old, however, these fibs are for the purpose of team bonding.

"We've been playing this card game called Wolf — it's about being the best liar," Rice, the midfielder, explained. "Basically, the villagers have got to sniff out the wolves and the wolves have got to lie and tell everyone why they are not a wolf.

"Conor Coady is the narrator so he talks around it and then all the lads have a big discussion on who they think is the wolf and who is not.

"There is a lot of team-work, ganging up and now we've been playing for quite a while. At the end you get to vote on who you think it is. When the wolf wins, they do the wolf sound and everything, so it's brilliant."

Rice will hope to be howling all the way to the World Cup final on December 18, when he would have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Sir Geoff Hurst by being West Ham United's English representative aiming for immortality. "Hopefully I can be the next one for West Ham fans to say that about," he said.

How long that link to east London lasts is less certain. "I want to play in the Champions League," Rice, 23, said. "For the last two or three years I've been playing consistently well for [my] club and I really want to keep pushing. I see my friends here who are playing Champions League and for big trophies. You only get one career and at the end you want to look back at what you've won and the biggest games you've played in."

Victory over Senegal on Sunday is likely to set up a quarter-final with France. Rice suggests that England should not be deemed underdogs in such a match. "Why should we not be feared?" he asked. "Other nations will always look at us and think about the quality we've got in the squad.

"If you look at our attacking players, there are world-class, unbelievable talents across the board."

Hi-tech talent factory gives Senegal tools to match European elite

Academy founded by Patrick Vieira is envy of Africa thanks to modern training methods that are churning out stars, reports **Tom Collins** in Saly

It is 5pm when more than a hundred young Senegalese footballers pour out of three large changing rooms on to six state-of-the-art pitches to begin training. The excited teenagers show no signs of tiredness as they wake from an afternoon siesta to avoid the relentless heat of the midday west African sun.

These are some of the best young players in Senegal — many of them will go on to play for Europe's biggest teams after training at the Diambars Academy, 30 miles south of Dakar, the capital city. In a country where the average wage for a footballer is about £250 a month, each training session is taken incredibly seriously as they understand the immense opportunity before them.

"I want to play for Manchester City or Marseille," said Mouhamadou Moustapha Fall, a 17-year-old defender drenched in sweat after his training session. "I need to earn money for my family. Everyone is relying on me. I hope I succeed."

His dreams could soon become a reality thanks to his association with the academy — one of Africa's most successful football institutions.

He believes a big club will call him to Europe next month for a "test", but he says it is too soon to give details. If he passes the test, he will train for a year and then make his debut at the highest level of football when he is 18 years old.

The academy has churned out top-flight players since it was founded in 2003 by Patrick Vieira, who has Senegalese roots, and two other retired footballers with links to Africa — Bernard Lama and Jean-Marc Adjovi-Bocco. The investors pitched the idea of starting Senegal's first world-class training institution to Saer Seck, now the academy's president.

DIAMBARS PLAYERS IN CURRENT SENEGAL SQUAD

IDRISSA GANA GUEYE
Defensive midfielder (33)
Current club Everton
Previous European clubs Lille, Aston Villa, Everton, PSG

BAMBA DIENG
Striker (22)
Current club Marseille

PATHÉ CISS
Midfielder (28)
Current club Rayo Vallecano
Previous European clubs Famalicao, Fuenlabrada

The squad to face England on Sunday includes three Diambars players: Bamba Dieng (Marseille), Pathé Ciss (Rayo Vallecano) and Idrissa Gana Gueye (Everton).

On the sidelines of a pristine pitch, Moussa Kamara, the academy's technical director, shouts orders at a group of young players. He explains that Diambars is a key reason why Senegal is the best African team in this World Cup, having won the Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) in 2021.



Everton midfielder Gueye is one of the famous alumni

"The gap between European teams and African teams is diminishing because of academies like Diambars. We have introduced the European mode of training players from a young age. Not so long ago in Senegal, we used to play football as a pastime. Now it is a serious job."

Each year the academy sends more than 30 scouts across the former French colony to look for the best talent among a population of about 17 million. More than 600 youngsters, including former street children, are brought to the seaside town of Saly to compete in a week-long competition that could change their lives for ever. Last year only 13 boys were chosen to stay at the academy, which provides a permanent home for more than 100 children at a time.

The pupils are given free accommodation and education at no cost to their parents. The academy pays about £20,000 a year to train a footballer, putting the annual total expenses at about £200,000. The average week consists of a rigorous mix of technical, tactical and physical exercises — with at least 11 hours spent on the football pitch.

Two pitches away from the technical director, Papa Ibrahima Faye, the assistant coach, is overseeing a header exercise on a sandy pitch to increase the strength of his players.

"The key to Diambars' success has been hard work," he says as he furiously blows his whistle. "Nothing but hard work."



Hot prospects at Diambars, which provides a permanent home for more than 100 pupils



One of the young attackers, Ousmane Diop, scores more goals than his team-mates — a sign of his great potential. The 17-year-old was brought to the academy from Dakar in 2016 after his old coach recommended that he take part in the annual competition. Since then he has excelled as a dynamic forward and it is widely expected he will soon be called to Europe.

"I want to be like Sadio Mané," he says, referencing the Senegal star ruled out the World Cup with injury. "I don't mind who I play for, but I dream of playing for Manchester City, Barcelona or Real Madrid. It might happen very soon. Next year, in fact."

The academy's most successful player to date is the defensive midfielder Gueye. The 33-year-old was gifted to the French club Lille in 2005 before Diambars had a reputation as a top academy.

The coaches say they didn't demand an initial fee as they wanted to show the world that Senegalese academies can produce world-class players. Gueye has since played for Aston Villa, Paris Saint-Germain and Everton, where he has returned this season for a second spell. Each time he is sold, the buyer must pay Diambars a percentage of the transfer



SAM BRADPIECE FOR THE TIMES



fee — sometimes millions of pounds.

There are more than 30 Diambars alumni in clubs across Europe, with even more in Africa, the Gulf and Asia — making it a lucrative business. Kamara, the technical director, says they aim to put a minimum of three Senegalese players in top-level European clubs each year.

He adds: "We have some players that have gone for tests in France this year and we are waiting for the results. If they don't make it at the big European clubs when they are 18, we wait until they are a little older and send them to Qatar and Turkey."

The money the academy has made from its alumni players has allowed Diambars to slowly morph into one of Africa's finest football schools.

In 2003 the academy was little more than a dirt pitch and a changing room but it has since blossomed into a large complex with a swimming pool, state-of-the-art gym, kitchens, meeting rooms, offices, and on-site accommodation. The extended drive to the main building looks like the entrance to a stately home in the south of Spain, with palm trees bracketing a sandy track.

Mouhamed Gandhour, an African football analyst, says the Diambars Academy is one of the best on the continent. "They have put in place a very good structure to help these kids become professionals. They have an intelligent vision and a good level of infrastructure to make sure that the kids who come from Diambars can become world champions."

He expects Senegal's game with England to be a huge boon for Diambars, even if they lose the match.

In the past the academy was mostly courted by the likes of Marseille and PSG — because of the old colonial links. Marseille even sponsored Diambars in 2019, leading to a steady flow of players heading for tests at the club. But with two Diambars players likely to start against England on Sunday, the attention of Premier League scouts will turn to Senegal. The coaches report that scouts from City visited the club last week, looking for the next Gueye.

A pivot to English clubs has also taken place among the players who used to dream about playing in France. After Mané joined Liverpool in 2016 and electrified the Premier League for six consecutive seasons, before joining Bayern Munich this summer, many of the boys now want to play in England.

Despite their team being the underdog in the match on Sunday, many of the players hold out hope that Senegal can pull off a shock victory.

"I think we are going to win," said Fall, the defender who may one day play for City. "After all, we have two players from Diambars."

Diouf taunts old team-mate Gerrard over England spirit

TOM RODDY DOHA

El Hadji Diouf has reignited the feud with his old Liverpool team-mate Steven Gerrard by saying that the present England side have a much better team spirit than the fractious "golden generation" ever had.

Diouf, the former Senegal striker who is now part of the country's technical team, was quick to praise Gareth Southgate for harnessing a harmonious England squad, before claiming that Gerrard and Frank Lampard used to dislike each other.

"This time of English football is different because they all copy, the national team as well, Pep Guardiola and Man City," Diouf said. "They play the same way, they want to have the ball and score a lot of goals and play tiki-taka football.

"[The] players can do it as well, they have a good team and a very good team spirit as well. It's not like Stevie G and Lampard time — the two of them, they don't like each other. It's about team spirit and Gareth Southgate did a great job."

Diouf's previous criticism of Gerrard has included claiming the former midfielder, who represented England 114 times, achieved nothing for his nation. Diouf was part of the Senegal squad in 2002 that reached the World Cup quarter-finals — they were eliminated by Turkey — after beating France, the world and European champions, in their opening group game.

Diouf has warned England not to underestimate the African Cup of Nations winners when they meet at the Al Bayt Stadium on Sunday in the same way that France did in 2002.

"It reminds me of when we played against France," Diouf said. "They thought they'd won the game before they played it. If England do the same thing on Sunday, this is good for us.

"This game is not about the best team winning it, the best boys, the ones with strong mentality and team spirit, they are going to win it. It's not a game that will be won by tiki-taka."

World Cup in numbers

by Bill Edgar



100

Belgium became the first country to field seven cap centurions in a World Cup match, including substitutes. Thibaut Courtois made his 100th appearance, against Croatia yesterday, joining Jan Vertonghen, Axel Witsel, Toby Alderweireld, Eden Hazard, Dries Mertens and Romelu Lukaku on three figures. In fact the eight most-capped Belgians of all time appeared in the match, with Kevin De Bruyne winning his 97th cap. The 16 players fielded by Roberto Martínez average 79 appearances for their country — Raheem Sterling is the only member of the England squad to have won that many caps. (He has 81)

Play time

Belgium's match may have lacked goals — the 0-0 draw eliminated them from the tournament — but the ball was in play for 68 minutes and 36 seconds, the most at this World Cup. On the previous night the two group C games contained a 20-minute difference between ball-in-play time: Poland v Argentina had 67 minutes, 23 seconds while the foul-ridden Saudi Arabia v Mexico clash had only 47 minutes and 44 seconds.

7pts

Morocco's seven points from three games is the best haul by any African team in a World Cup group stage (assuming three points for a win throughout). African nations have recorded a combined six wins at this tournament — already two more than in any previous World Cup, and one more than South American teams have managed in Qatar before today's final group matches.

Germany shot to bits

The best two "shots differences" (a team's shots taken minus shots faced) recorded by any side in a group campaign over the past four World Cups have been Germany's plus-40 in 2018 (outcome: group-stage exit) – and Germany's plus-43 this year (outcome: group-stage exit).

Germany suffered a 1966 World Cup final flashback: they played a match that finished 4-2 and exited the tournament after a controversy relating to whether a ball had crossed a line (Japan's winner against Spain). Even so, their victory over Costa Rica made them the first team to win a World Cup game by at least two goals having trailed after 70 minutes since Spain beat Tunisia in 2006.

Quick turnarounds

Japan's 2-1 win over Spain last night featured the sixth case at this World Cup of a team scoring twice within eight minutes to turn a deficit into a lead — that happened only twice in the 2018 tournament. Japan are the first group winners since 1950 to record a goal difference five worse than a team below them. The only nations to have defeated all three of Germany/West Germany, Italy and Spain at the World Cup since 1990s (including penalty shoot-outs) are South Korea and Japan.

TODAY'S MATCH DETAILS

GHANA V URUGUAY

Group H Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah
Kick-off Today, 3pm (6pm local time)

Coverage
TV BBC2
Radio talkSPORT 2, BBC 5 Live

Possible line-ups

Ghana (4-2-3-1):
L Ati Zigi — T Lamptey, D Amartey, M Salisu, G Mensah — T Partey, S Samed — M Kudus, A Ayew, J Ayew — I Williams

Uruguay (3-5-2):
S Rochet — S Coates, D Godin, J Gimenez — G Varela, R Bentancur, M Vecino, F Valverde, M Olivera — E Cavani, D Nunez

Referee Daniel Siebert (Germany)

Tony Cascarino prediction
Ghana 0 Uruguay 1

SOUTH KOREA V PORTUGAL

Group H Education City Stadium, Al Rayyan
Kick-off Today, 3pm (6pm local time)

Coverage
TV BBC1
Radio talkSPORT

Possible line-ups

South Korea (4-3-3):
Kim Seung-gyu — Kim Moon-hwan, Kim Min-jae, Kim Young-gwon, Kim Jin-su — Hwang In-beom, Jeong Woo-yeong, Jung Woo-Young — Kwon Chang-hoon, Cho Gue-sung, Son Heung-min

Portugal (4-2-3-1):
D Costa — J Cancelo, R Dias, Pepe, R Guerreiro — R Neves, W Carvalho — B Silva, B Fernandes, J Félix — C Ronaldo

Referee Facundo Tello (Argentina)

Tony Cascarino prediction
South Korea 2 Portugal 2

CAMEROON V BRAZIL

Group G Lusail Iconic Stadium, Lusail
Kick-off Today, 7pm (10pm local time)

Coverage
TV ITV1
Radio talkSPORT, BBC 5 Live

Possible line-ups

Cameroon (4-3-3):
D Epassy — C Fai, J-C Castelletto, N Nkoulou, N Tolo — A-F Anguissa, P Kunde, M Hongla — B Mbeumo V Aboubakar, E Choupo-Moting

Brazil (4-2-3-1):
Alisson — E Militao, Marquinhos, T Silva, A Telles — Casemiro, Fred — Raphinha, L Paqueta, Vinícius Jr — Richarlison

Referee Ismail Elfath (United States)

Tony Cascarino prediction
Cameroon 1 Brazil 2

SERBIA V SWITZERLAND

Group G Stadium 974, Doha
Kick-off Today, 7pm (10pm local time)

Coverage
TV ITV4
Radio talkSPORT 2

Possible line-ups

Serbia (3-4-2-1):
V Milinkovic-Savic — N Milenkovic, M Veljkovic, S Pavlovic — A Zivkovic, S Lukic, N Maksimovic, F Kostic — D Tadic, S Milinkovic-Savic — A Mitrovic

Switzerland (4-3-3):
Y Sommer — S Widmer, M Akanji, N Elvedi, R Rodriguez — Rieder, R Freuler, G Xhaka — D Sow, B Embolo, R Vargas

Referee Fernando Rapallini (Argentina)

Tony Cascarino prediction
Serbia 2 Switzerland 3



Route to the final

GROUP A		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
A1	HOLLAND (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7
A2	SENEGAL (Q)	3	2	0	1	5	4	+1	6
A3	ECUADOR	3	1	0	2	4	3	+1	4
A4	QATAR	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0

GROUP B		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
B1	ENGLAND (Q)	3	2	1	0	9	2	+7	7
B2	USA (Q)	3	1	2	0	2	1	+1	5
B3	IRAN	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
B4	WALES	3	0	1	2	1	6	-5	1

GROUP C		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
C1	ARGENTINA (Q)	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
C2	POLAND (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
C3	MEXICO	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
C4	SAUDI ARABIA	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3

Sunday, Nov 20
Al Bayt Stadium, Al Khor
Qatar 0
Ecuador 2
E Valencia 16 (pen), 31
Referee D Orsato (Italy)
Attendance 67,372

Monday, Nov 21
Al Thumama Stadium, Doha
Senegal 0
Holland 2
Gakpo 84, Klaassen 90+9
Referee W Sampaio (Brazil)
Attendance 41,721

Friday, Nov 25
Al Thumama Stadium
Qatar 1
Muntari 78
Senegal 3
Dia 41, Diédhiou 48, Dieng 84
Referee A Mateu Lahoz (Spain)
Attendance 41,797

Monday, Nov 21
Khalifa Stadium
England 6
Bellingham 35, Saka 43, 62, Sterling 45+1, Rashford 71, Grealish 90
Iran 2
Taremi 65, 90+13 (pen)
Referee R Claus (Brazil)
Attendance 45,334

Monday, Nov 21
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
United States 1
Weah 36
Wales 1
Bale 82 (pen)
Referee A Al-Jassim (Qatar)
Attendance 43,418

Friday, Nov 25
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
Wales 0
Sent off: W Hennessey 86
Iran 2
Cheshmi 90+8, Rezaeian 90+11
Referee M Escobar (Guat)
Attendance 40,875

Tuesday, Nov 22
Lusail Stadium
Argentina 1
Messi 10 (pen)
Saudi Arabia 2
Al-Shehri 48, S Al-Dawsari 53
Referee S Vincic (Slovenia)
Attendance 88,012

Tuesday, Nov 22
Stadium 974, Doha
Mexico 0
Poland 0
Referee C Beath (Australia)
Attendance 39,369

Saturday, Nov 26
Education City Stadium
Poland 2
Zielinski 39, Lewandowski 82
Saudi Arabia 0
Referee W Sampaip (Bra)
Attendance 44,259

Friday, Nov 25
Khalifa Stadium, Al Rayyan
Holland 1
Gakpo 6
Ecuador 1
E Valencia 49
Referee M Ghorbal (Algeria)
Attendance 44,833

Tuesday, Nov 29
Khalifa Stadium
Ecuador 1
Caicedo 67
Senegal 2
Sarr 44 (pen), Koulibaly 70
Referee C Turpin (Fr)
Attendance 44,569

Tuesday, Nov 29
Al Bayt Stadium
Holland 2
Gakpo 26, De Jong 49
Qatar 0
Referee B Gassama (Gam)
Attendance 66,784

Friday, Nov 25
Al Bayt Stadium
England 0
United States 0
Referee J Valenzuela (Ven)
Attendance 68,463

Tuesday, Nov 29
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
Wales 0
England 3
Rashford 50, 68, Foden 51
Referee S Vincic (Slovenia)
Attendance 44,297

Tuesday, Nov 29
Al Thumama Stadium
Iran 0
United States 1
Pulisic 38
Referee M Lahoz (Sp)
Attendance 42, 127

Saturday, Nov 26
Lusail Stadium
Argentina 2
Messi 64, Fernandez 87
Mexico 0
Referee D Orsato (Italt)
Attendance 88,966

Wednesday, Nov 30
Stadium 974
Poland 0
Argentina 2
Mac Allister 46, Álvarez 67
Referee D Makkelie (Neth)
Attendance 44,089

Wednesday, Nov 30
Lusail Stadium
Saudi Arabia 1
Al Dawsari 90+5
Mexico 2
Martín 47, Chávez 52
Referee M Oliver (England)
Attendance 84,985

GROUP E		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
E1	JAPAN (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	3	+1	6
E2	SPAIN (Q)	3	1	1	1	9	3	+6	4
E3	GERMANY	3	1	1	1	6	5	+1	4
E4	COSTA RICA	3	1	0	2	3	11	-8	3

GROUP F		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
F1	MOROCCO (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	1	+3	7
F2	CROATIA (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	1	+3	5
F3	BELGIUM	3	1	1	1	1	2	-1	4
F4	CANADA	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0

GROUP G		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
G1	BRAZIL (Q)	2	2	0	0	3	0	+3	6
G2	SWITZERLAND	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
G3	CAMEROON	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
G4	SERBIA	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1

Wednesday, Nov 23
Khalifa Stadium
Germany 1
Gündogan 33'(pen)
Japan 2
Doan 75, Asano 83
Referee I Barton (El Salvador)
Attendance 42,608

Wednesday, Nov 23
Al Thumama Stadium
Spain 7
Olmo 11, Asensio 21, Torres 31 (pen), 54, Páez Gavira 74, Soler 90, Morata 90+2
Costa Rica 0
Referee M Mohamed (UAE)
Attendance 40,013

Sunday, Nov 27
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
Japan 0
Costa Rica 1
Fuller 81
Referee M Oliver (Eng)
Attendance 41, 479

Wednesday, Nov 23
Al Bayt Stadium
Morocco 0
Croatia 0
Referee F Rapallini (Arg)
Attendance 59,407

Wednesday, Nov 23
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
Belgium 1
Batshuayi 44
Canada 0
Referee J Sikazwe (Zambia)
Attendance 40,432

Sunday, Nov 27
Al Thumama Stadium
Belgium 0
Morocco 2
Saiss73, Aboukhlal 90+2
Referee C Ramos (Mex)
Attendance 43,738

Thursday, Nov 24
Al Janoub Stadium
Switzerland 1
Embolo 48
Cameroon 0
Referee F Tello (Arg)
Attendance 39,089

Thursday, Nov 24
Lusail Iconic Stadium
Brazil 2
Richarlison 62, 73
Serbia 0
Referee A Faghani (Iran)
Attendance 88,103

Yesterday
Al Janoub Stadium
Cameroon 3
Castelletto 29, Aboubakar 63, Choupo-Moting 66
Serbia 3
Pavlovic 45+1, Milinkovic-Savic 45+3, Mitrovic 53
Referee M Abdulla (UAE)
Attendance 39,789

Sunday, Nov 27
Al Bayt Stadium
Spain 1
Morata 62
Germany 1
Fullkrug 83
Referee D Makkelie (Neth)
Attendance 68,895

Yesterday
Khalifa Stadium
Japan 2
Doan 48, Tanaka 51
Spain 1
Morata 11
Referee V Gomes (SA)
Attendance 44,851

Yesterday
Al Bayt Stadium
Costa Rica 2
Tejeda 58, Vargas 70
Germany 4
Gnabry 10, Havertz 73, 85, Füllkrug 89
Referee S Frappart (France)
Attendance 67,054

Sunday, Nov 27
Khalifa Stadium
Croatia 4
Kramaric 36, 70, Livaja 44, Majer 90+4
Canada 1
Davies 2
Referee A M Matonte Cabrera (Uru). **Att** 44,374

Yesterday
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
Croatia 0
Belgium 0
Referee A Taylor (England)
Attendance 43,984

Yesterday
Al Thumama Stadium
Canada 1
Aguerd 40 (og)
Morocco 2
Ziyech 4, En-Nesyri 23
Referee R Claus (Brazil)
Attendance 43,102

Yesterday
Stadium 974
Brazil 1
Casemiro 83
Switzerland 0
Referee I Barton (El Salv)
Attendance 43,649

Today, 7pm
Stadium 974
Serbia
Switzerland

Today, 7pm
Lusail Stadium
Cameroon
Brazil

Round of 16

Tomorrow, 3pm
Khalifa International Stadium
A1 Holland
B2 United States

Tomorrow, 7pm
Ahmad bin Ali Stadium
C1 Argentina
D2 Australia

Monday, December 5, 3pm
Al Janoub Stadium
E1 Japan
F2 Croatia

Monday, December 5, 7pm
Stadium 974
G1
H2

Quarter-finals

Friday, December 9, 7pm
Lusail Stadium

Friday, December 9, 3pm
Education City Stadium

Semi-finals

Tuesday, December 13, 7pm
Lusail Stadium

Final



Sunday, December 18
3pm, Lusail Stadium

Third place
Saturday, December 17
3pm, Khalifa International Stadium

Semi-finals

Wednesday, December 14, 7pm
Al Bayt Stadium



GROUP D		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
D1	FRANCE (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3	6
D2	AUSTRALIA (Q)	3	2	0	1	3	4	-1	6
D3	TUNISIA	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
D4	DENMARK	3	0	1	2	1	3	-2	1

Tuesday, Nov 22
Education City Stadium
Denmark 0
Tunisia 0
Referee C Ramos (Mexico)
Attendance 42,925

Tuesday, Nov 22
Al Janoub Stadium
France 4
Rabiot 27, Giroud 32, 71 Mbappé 68
Australia 1
Goodwin 9
Referee V Gomes (SA)
Attendance 40,875

Saturday, Nov 26
Al Janoub Stadium
Tunisia 0
Australia 1
Duke 23
Referee D Siebert (Ger)
Attendance 41,823

Saturday, Nov 26
Stadium 974
France 2
Mbappé 61, 86
Denmark 1
Christensen 68
Referee S Marciniak (Pol)
Attendance 42,860

Wednesday, Nov 30
Al Janoub Stadium
Australia 1
Leckie 60
Denmark 0
Referee M Ghorbal (Algeria)
Attendance 41,232

Wednesday, Nov 30
Education City Stadium
Tunisia 1
Khazri 58
France 0
Referee M Conger (NZ)
Attendance 43,627

GROUP H		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
H1	PORTUGAL (Q)	2	2	0	0	5	2	+3	6
H2	GHANA	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
H3	SOUTH KOREA	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
H4	URUGUAY	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1

Thursday, Nov 24
Education City Stadium
Uruguay 0
South Korea 0
Referee C Turpin (Rom)
Attendance 41,663

Thursday, Nov 24
Stadium 974
Portugal 3
Ronaldo 65 (pen), Felix 78, Leao 80
Ghana 2
A Ayew 73, Bukari 89
Referee I Elfath (US)
Attendance 42,662

Yesterday
Education City Stadium
South Korea 2
Cho 58, 61
Ghana 3
Salisu 24, Kudus 34, 68
Referee A Taylor (England)
Attendance 43,983

Yesterday
Lusail Stadium
Portugal 2
Fernandes 54, 90+3 (pen)
Uruguay 0
Referee A Faghani (Iran)
Attendance 88,668

Today, 3pm
Al Janoub Stadium
Ghana
Uruguay

Today, 3pm
Education City Stadium
South Korea
Portugal

Quarter-finals

Saturday, December 10, 7pm
Al Bayt Stadium

Saturday, December 10, 3pm
Al Thumama Stadium

Round of 16

Sunday, December 4, 7pm
Al Bayt Stadium
B1 England
A2 Senegal

Sunday, December 4, 3pm
Al Thumama Stadium
D1 France
C2 Poland

Tuesday, December 6, 3pm
Education City Stadium
F1 Morocco
E2 Spain

Tuesday, December 6, 7pm
Lusail Stadium
H1
G2

'Russia, North Korea – let's involve everyone'

Henry Winter talks to Nasser al-Khelaifi about PSG, the Super League and World Cup legacy



The sun appeared, followed by the stars. Stepping out on to the baking padel courts of a racquets club in Doha on Tuesday morning were Gabriel Batistuta, the Brazilian Ronaldo, Patrick Kluivert and Joe Cole, some of the notable football names among Nasser al-Khelaifi's rotation of distinguished playing partners. The Qatari is one of the most important people in football, the man who helped fight off the European Super League, who recounts emotionally how he knew something serious was up when Andrea Agnelli, Ed Woodward and Vinai Venkatesham all left the European Club Association (ECA) WhatsApp group simultaneously.

Khelaifi is now chairman of the ECA, as resistant as ever to the Super League plotters. He's president of Paris Saint-Germain and talking to Lionel Messi about his future. He's a powerful figure in the organising of the World Cup in his homeland. He is also very aware of the criticism of his country. So we meet to talk.

But padel first, parley second. Khelaifi, 49, is a former tennis professional, and clearly plays this hybrid of tennis, squash and chess regularly. Ronaldo, 46, commands his side of the court, returning smoothly, making the ball do the work, making the opponent do the short bursts of running. Batistuta, 53, plays padel as he played football, forceful, athletic, with a killer instinct.

Kluivert, 46, seems as lean and mobile as when easing AC Milan's Franco Baresi out of the way to score the winner for Ajax in the 1995 Champions League final. Cole, 41, a refreshing and enlightening television pundit, is new to racket sports but assimilates swiftly the basics of padel and is soon rallying confidently.

I join in, so out of my depth they almost need a local pearl diver to find me again, but it's an instantly addictive sport. The games pause when the Emir of Qatar pays a surprise visit, conversing for a while, before the games continue.

It's all a world away from many of the issues of the World Cup, the "One Love" armband controversy, the deaths of migrant workers, and all the furore over the initial awarding of the tournament to Qatar. So Khelaifi finds a place in the shade and seeks to explain cultural differences and disputes. He wants people to hear him out and then make their own judgements.

He studied for a year in Greece and spent time on the ATP Tour. He's well-travelled. "Listen, I love Europe," Khelaifi begins. "I love the US. I love Asia. I love the rest of the world. I love them because they have their own cultures, their own traditions, their own values, which I respect. What we in Qatar are saying is we have our own values, our own culture. What we are asking kindly is that people just respect our culture, our tradition and our values. We are not the best country in the world but, trust me, we are not the worst."

But what of the gay community not feeling welcomed? "Listen, our leader, his Highness the Emir, said, 'welcome everybody, just one thing, respect us'," Khelaifi continues. "We respect every single language, colour, country, religion, everything. But what we are saying is 'respect us, our values, you are here, just respect'. We are not asking a lot to be honest."

It's difficult to hear but it's important to understand his perspective, at least listen to it. "This is an amazing World Cup, you saw the opening ceremony, which is about the message, bringing people together," he argues. "Qatar is about peace. I have a dream and I am going to make it happen. We need to bring people together. I want to have a campaign called One World, a star match with the best players, but then bring the best singers, the best actors. You have three players, Neymar, Messi, [Cristiano] Ronaldo, one billion social media, bigger than any president of a country, to get the message of togetherness out there, a message to kids, who listen to them more than to their parents."

> **'Ed Man United – left'. 'Vinai Arsenal – left'. 'Liverpool – left'. Left, left, left.**

Khelaifi's dream is to involve every country. Even Russia, North Korea? "Bring everyone together," he replies. "Peace and love. I'm talking to you about this dream and I feel goosebumps, I feel humble. I have it in my heart and in my DNA. From my parents, from my leaders, these are my values."

His country's values have been so questioned, he wanted to continue explaining. "Honestly, as a Qatarian, I am so proud of my country, our leadership, and our people. Our country! Not everything is Doha, there's outside, the south, the sea, the sand dunes. There's the things that really we are so proud of, the people, the history.

"The security issues we have in this World Cup, I would like to know what the statistics are for [compared to] security issues in previous World Cups. So far everything [is] good, and I hope that continues." He nods at a mention of the storming of Wembley last year at the European Championship final. "Exactly."

It was a tense, troubled year for European football. The proposed Super League was a lucrative closed competition that threatened national leagues. It threatened the pyramid system. It threatened Uefa.

"I was shocked," Khelaifi recalls of that momentous day, Sunday, April 18, 2021. "I was in Paris, I got a message at 5am from Dariusz [Mioduski, ECA executive board member and owner of Legia Warsaw], saying, 'did you hear about the Super League?' I said, 'no'. 'Did [Uefa president Aleksander] Ceferin call you?' 'No.' Half an hour later, Ceferin called me. 'You didn't know?' 'Honestly, no'."

The plotters slipped off the radar, preparing their big announcement later that day. Khelaifi tried to contact one of the ringleaders, Andrea Agnelli, then chairman of Juventus. "I called Andrea, he didn't answer. I texted him, he didn't answer. We have an ECA board WhatsApp group. I see 'Andrea Agnelli left'. 'Ed Man United – left'. 'Vinai Arsenal – left'. 'Liverpool – left'. Left, left, left. All of them. I thought someone had hacked my phone. I promise you. I couldn't believe it. Then they announced it half an hour later. All the clubs."

Chaos. Uefa had a meeting scheduled for Montreux in which the governing body of European football hoped to re-assert its authority. Ceferin needed Khelaifi there. Khelaifi then received the news that a contact had tested positive for Covid, which would have precluded him travelling to Montreux. "I called Ceferin. 'Nasser, you have to come'. 'If they allow me, I will come by car, by bike'. Ceferin was doubting me, thinking, maybe I was playing a game. He is the godfather of the daughter of Agnelli, and [look] what he had done to him."

Uefa's fear was that PSG might join the Super League. "They put pressure on me," Khelaifi says of the plotters. "I will never do this [join the Super League] even if I lose everything. On my life, I will never do it, I promise you." He reassured Ceferin that PSG would stand by Uefa and stand against the Super Leaguers.

He checked on the contact who had contracted Covid. "He said, 'I had Covid three weeks ago'. I called the doctor. I said, 'it was three weeks ago, let's do another test'. They find tiny traces that cannot be contagious. So I flew to Montreux. I will do anything for the ECA. They were so scared." They asked him to agree to re-election to Uefa. "I promised them a decision in three days. They said, 'please, please, now'. So I accepted."

Before he leaves, Khelaifi addresses the impact of the tournament. "Listen, the legacy of the World Cup is first the infrastructure, and second, the experience of Qatar people receiving the world in their countrys. People want to come back. Batistuta said he's definitely coming for Christmas here." Khelaifi just wants people to see for themselves.



Khelaifi, the Paris St Germain President with Lionel Messi

Aussies finally wake up to 'soccer' at 3am

WILLIAM WEST; ROBERT CIANFLONE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN SIBLEY/REUTERS

From footnote to front page, the Australian public has fallen in love with its football heroes, writes **Adam Peacock**



THEIR WORLD CUP RECORD

1974	Group Stage
2006	Round of 16
2010	Group Stage
2014	Group Stage
2018	Group Stage



Fans celebrate in Melbourne, left, and Boyle, above, waves his crutches as the team celebrate qualifying for the last 16, below



There is a famous video from 2015 that encapsulates where football lies in the Australian sporting landscape. Ange Postecoglou, now the Celtic manager but then in charge of the Australia side, ends a team meeting with one last motivational push before a game later that evening.

"I wanna wake up tomorrow morning," Postecoglou yells, "and the papers aren't talking about an AFL player who farted, an NRL player who did something stupid. I want them talking about OUR GAME!"

There were a few adjectives thrown in, edited for decorum's sake, but Postecoglou's stirring address encapsulates football's struggle for relevance in a sports-mad nation, and why today for football's loyal, patient, and perennially frustrated ardent followers, has a utopian feel.

Football dominates. Public areas of congregation, such as Federation Square in Melbourne's central business district (CBD) have become gathering places for the masses, and for the 1-0 wins over Tunisia and Denmark, the centrepiece for mayhem.

This Socceroos squad, hitherto unknown outside football's tight-knit community, have knocked other sporting codes off the back pages and from the top of the TV news agenda, without really grasping what they have achieved.

Jackson Irvine, the energetic midfielder who left Australia as a teenager to claw his way to a career in Scotland, England and now Germany, was shown the Fed Square mayhem after the Tunisia game. "Jesus Christ!" the 29-year-old exclaimed, and bubbled with pride about helping to create scenes back home that he would probably have been a part of had he not made it as a professional.

After the Denmark game, at 3am Sydney time on a Thursday, pub-goers from the Cheers Bar spilt on to George St in the CBD and formed a flash mob of exuberance. Trading hours had been extended for the game and after Mat Leckie's heroics, beers flowed, and bosses the land over dealt with lower staff numbers.

Radio stations came up with novel promotional concepts, such as depriving a fan the chance to watch the game by locking him in a room at 2am. He was then allowed to watch the game at 6am, when the show went to air, and they filmed his agonising 90 minutes for "content". His reward of $500 (about £280) was well earned.

There is a strong undercurrent of football "culture" in Australia. For starters, it has the highest participation numbers, by some distance. Mention this overseas, and you are greeted by a look of confusion.

Football struggles to break into the mainstream on TV, such is the choice presented to sports fans every weekend. Through winter there are the "footy" codes, rugby league, rugby union and the AFL, which commercially is on par, per capita, with the English Premier League and NFL.

In summer, there is cricket, and struggling for relevance, Australia's domestic football competition, the A-League Men's, which plays in the warmer months primarily for fresh air from the winter weekend staples.

There are still strains of football being a sport for migrants, a narrative that spun off the back of the post-Second World War policy of opening up Australia's borders. Italians, Greeks, Croats, Poles, Germans all took the opportunity to travel to the other side of the world, bringing a football with them.

The sport has been an exotic taste ever since, but a safer option for parents than the rough and tumble of the physical footy codes. As those children get older, their attention usually diverts to watching the collision sports, with the best Australian footballers transporting themselves to Europe, to make it.

It is there the Socceroos lurch into out-of-sight, out-of-mind territory, off in far-flung lands. But now together in an Australian shirt, they are making noise like never before, and their stories are rushing into the minds of a suddenly captive audience.

Of players like Milos Degenek, the Balkan War refugee who came to Australia as a baby. Or Awer Mabil, who grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp. Or Mitchell Duke, who was ignored as a youth player and battled through a decade-long career before scoring the winner against Tunisia.

They are humble, quiet achievers, devoid of star power. There are only two players — Ajdin Hrustic (Hellas Verona, Italy) and Mabil (Cadiz, Spain) — contracted to clubs in one of Europe's top five leagues. The group of 26, 27 if you include Martin Boyle, the injured Hibernian winger who was kept on as "Chief Vibes Officer", have a bond stronger than titanium.

Politicians are now grasping how big a deal the success of the Socceroos is, with New South Wales premier Dominic Perrottet finally bowing to public pressure and opening up a fan site near the Sydney CBD for the Argentina game, which kicks off on Sunday at 6am on the east coast of Australia.

The bandwagon is full, and blissfully so. The hardened souls who love the sport to their core are in dreamland.

Football, for now, is No 1.

● *Adam Peacock is a writer for* CodeSports *in Australia*

Trendspotting the secret to Socceroos' success

MARTIN HARDY

It was 3am and red smoke filled the air at Melbourne's Federation Square. Thousands of Australia supporters were still going strong and a deep chorus of football songs could be heard amid the hysteria.

The Socceroos had just made it into the round of 16 for the first time since 2006. Regardless of the hour of day, flares were lit — it was time to party. The mesmeric run and finish of Mathew Leckie, a 31-year-old striker for Melbourne City no less, was enough to defeat Denmark 1-0. Finally, Qatar 2022 had an underdog with substance.

It has been a World Cup that has had some of the biggest shocks in the history of the tournament — Germany falling to Japan, Saudi Arabia slaying Argentina.

The timing of the World Cup has meant that so many top players have arrived at the tournament fatigued, especially those from the Premier League, and there are ageing teams, such as Belgium, who are being overrun in games.

But it was in the detail, the hours of analysis and the delivery of message that the Australia head coach Graham Arnold and his staff found a way to squeeze a country ranked 51st in the world into the round of 16.

"Video analysis is so, so important, to get that right, to look at the right things, to identify the trends," said Rene Meulensteen, the Australia assistant coach and former Manchester United first-team coach.

"It is very similar feeling to what I had at Man United, I worked so many years with Sir Alex Ferguson, he trusted us and delegated and every single department has the experience and the expertise that contributes to a performance.

"It's all about making sure where you can pick holes in the opponent, where is the vulnerability, and making players believe in it and prepare them on the training pitch and off the training pitch to make that happen. Obviously I went to see them [Denmark] against France and there is no hiding place because of Wyscout [the analytical tool that provides data on thousands of players], you look at all the games you want, but the real data is what they have done here. You don't go too far back. Analysis is all about trends and identifying trends.

"Denmark played the first game against Tunisia, which I went to, and they played a back five. Sometimes they switch and it's a back four. We expected them to play a back four because they were chasing a result, which they have done at different times.



Arnold and his staff spend hours on video analysis

"From all that information the key is not to overcomplicate things to the players, don't blow their heads up with this, that and the other, just making sure, listen, we've got it right, we have a plan, don't worry about it."

The plan for Australia is working. Their two victories — against Tunisia and Denmark — were as many as any other side has managed in reaching the round of 16. As well as the endless study and providing clear instructions, Meulensteen recognises the fatigue factor.

"It has to do with the short lead-in," the 58-year-old said. "The players coming in have played a lot of games. Three games a week and all that. They might not be completely set to it. We straight away had the approach, we don't have a week's lead-in. We have a 4½-year lead-in. We know exactly what you guys are going to do. These players have been so good at adapting to the tactical tweaks."

The widely available analysis and the tight turnaround time is narrowing the gap. "In some ways it shouldn't be but international football is a different landscape," he said. "Look at the Premier League, a top-four team cannot go to a bottom-four team and think 'We are just going to pick up the points.'

"That is now what you see on the international scene. Don't just turn up and think you're going to turn over Australia. It doesn't happen like that."

It is a short turnaround now for Australia. Arnold, Meulensteen and their colleagues will head back to the bunker. Their greatest challenge yet will be to work out how to stop Lionel Messi tomorrow.

THE TIMES

2022 Christmas gift guide



Bon Bon bag, £950 jimmychoo.com

Compiled by Hannah Skelley, Sidonie Wilson and Georgina Roberts

Women | Men | Tech | Home | Kids | Beauty | Scent | Jewels

Terre d'Hermès Eau Givrée 100ml, £98 johnlewis.com



Fugazzi Fragrances Orange Crush 50ml, £70 cultbeauty.co.uk



Tom Ford Neroli Portofino Acqua 50ml, £90 lookfantastic.com



Frédéric Malle Monsieur 100ml, £235 selfridges.com



Sunday Cologne, £130 byredo.com



Jo Malone Intense Collection, £105 for five jomalone.co.uk



Ormonde Jayne Montabaco Verano 50ml, £145 ormondejayne.com



For him



Off-White C/O Virgil Abloh Solution No 3 100ml, £135 selfridges.com

Escentric Molecules Escentric 02 100ml, £76 brownsfashion.com



Santa Maria Novella L'Iris 100ml, £140 uk.smnovella.com



Wienerblut Volkamaria 100ml £150 brownsfashion.com



Hermès H24 refill 125ml, £91 johnlewis.com



Dior Homme 100ml, £90 dior.com



Memo Paris Iberian Leather 75ml, £225 harveynichols.com



The journey continues
New tickets released for 2023



ABBA® Voyage
A concert like no other
The perfect Christmas gift experience
Only at the ABBA Arena | abbavoyage.com
OUR OFFICIAL PARTNER OCEANBIRD TOWARDS TRULY SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING

Peony & Blush Suede 100ml, £110, and, main image, scents from a selection jomalone.co.uk



Gabrielle 100ml, £126 chanel.com



Gucci Flora Gorgeous Jasmine 100ml, £111 theperfumeshop.com



My Way 50ml, £83 armanibeauty.co.uk



Granado Epoque Tropical 75ml, £110 libertylondon.com



Dolce & Gabbana Peony 75ml, £88 perfumedirect.com





Limited Edition Eau Rose 75ml, £140 diptyqueparis.com



Viktor & Rolf Flowerbomb Ruby Orchid 50ml, £83 boots.com



Vanille Antique 50ml, £240 byredo.com



Aerin Ambrette de Noir 100ml, £232 selfridges.com



Peonia Nobile 50ml, £130 acquadiparma.com



Limited Edition Eau de Soir by Sydney Albertini 100ml, £205 sisley-paris.com



Lily of the Valley 100ml, £120 penhaligons.com



Fleur d'Oranger 50ml, £157 lelabofragrances.com



Trudon Mortel 100ml, £185 net-a-porter.com



Ormonde Jayne Damask 50ml, £135 fenwick.co.uk



BoomBocs speaker, £129 boombocs.com



Beats Studio Buds, £159.99 beatsbydre.com



Fujifilm Instax SQ1 instant camera, £119 boots.com



Cirrus 3 iron steamer, £150 steamery.co.uk



MZ Skin LED 2.0 LightMAX LED mask, £545 net-a-porter.com





Save up to 64%* on Oral-B iO electric toothbrushes

In store | boots.com | App

*vs RRP. Subject to availability. Valid 16.11.22-03.01.23.

Boots With you. For life.

Tech



Audio-Technica manual belt-drive turntable AT-LPW50BTRW, £419.99 audio-technica.com

Ooni Koda 16 gas-powered pizza oven, £499 uk.ooni.com



Air Up water bottle with three peach flavour pods, £34.95 uk.air-up.com



AEG 8000 cordless cleaner, £399.99 johnlewis.com



Smeg SMF03 stand mixer, £499.95 shop.smeguk.com



Jewellery

Latelita malachite studs, £29 wolfand badger.com



Moissanite studs, £380 lilyarkwright.com



Gold vermeil monogram necklace, £82 galleria-armadoro.com





Droplet charm hoop earrings, £98 missoma.com

Mismatched studs, £85 tadaandtoy.com



Siren Half Eternity vermeil ring, £95 monicavinader.com





Jewellery selection, from £14 hush-uk.com

Limoncello ring, £90 heavenlylondon.com



Gold T-bar pendants, from £350 lucydelius.co

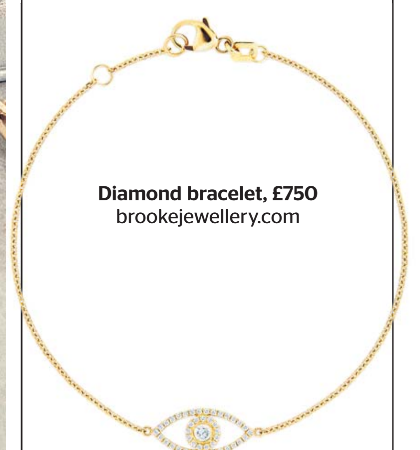




Anni Lu resin hoops, £55 coggles.com

Signet ring, £90 rosiefortescuejewellery.com





Diamond bracelet, £750 brookejewellery.com

Oscar de la Renta crystal earrings, £343.26 net-a-porter.com



Golden crystals choker, £170 bimbaylola.com



Quartz and pearl drop earrings, £250 mejuri.com



Hammered ring, £79 (available Dec 8) raniandco.co.uk



Jennifer Behr Mirabelle crystal earrings, £254 revolve.com




SAVE £576
IN THE EE
BLACK FRIDAY
BONANZA
SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG Galaxy S22
GRAB
UNLIMITED DATA
£42 P/M
Hurry, offer ends 5th December
24 month minimum term. Save £576 on an unlimited data plan (was £66 per month, now £42 per month, £30 upfront). The monthly price shown will increase from March every year by the Consumer Price Index rate of inflation published in January that year plus 3.9%. See ee.co.uk/increase for details. Subject to credit check and availability. Personal use only. 50GB data fair use policy applies outside the UK. Terms apply.



Bra, £28, and briefs, £15
wildloverslondon.com





Limited edition carousel with candle, £99 diptyqueparis.com

Love Handles vase, £340
anissakermiche.com



Letter charm, £35
stone-and-mason.com



Phoebe patchwork sweater, £125
kitristudio.com



Reformation x Canada Goose Mila puffer, £950 (available Dec 6)
canadagoose.com, reformation.com



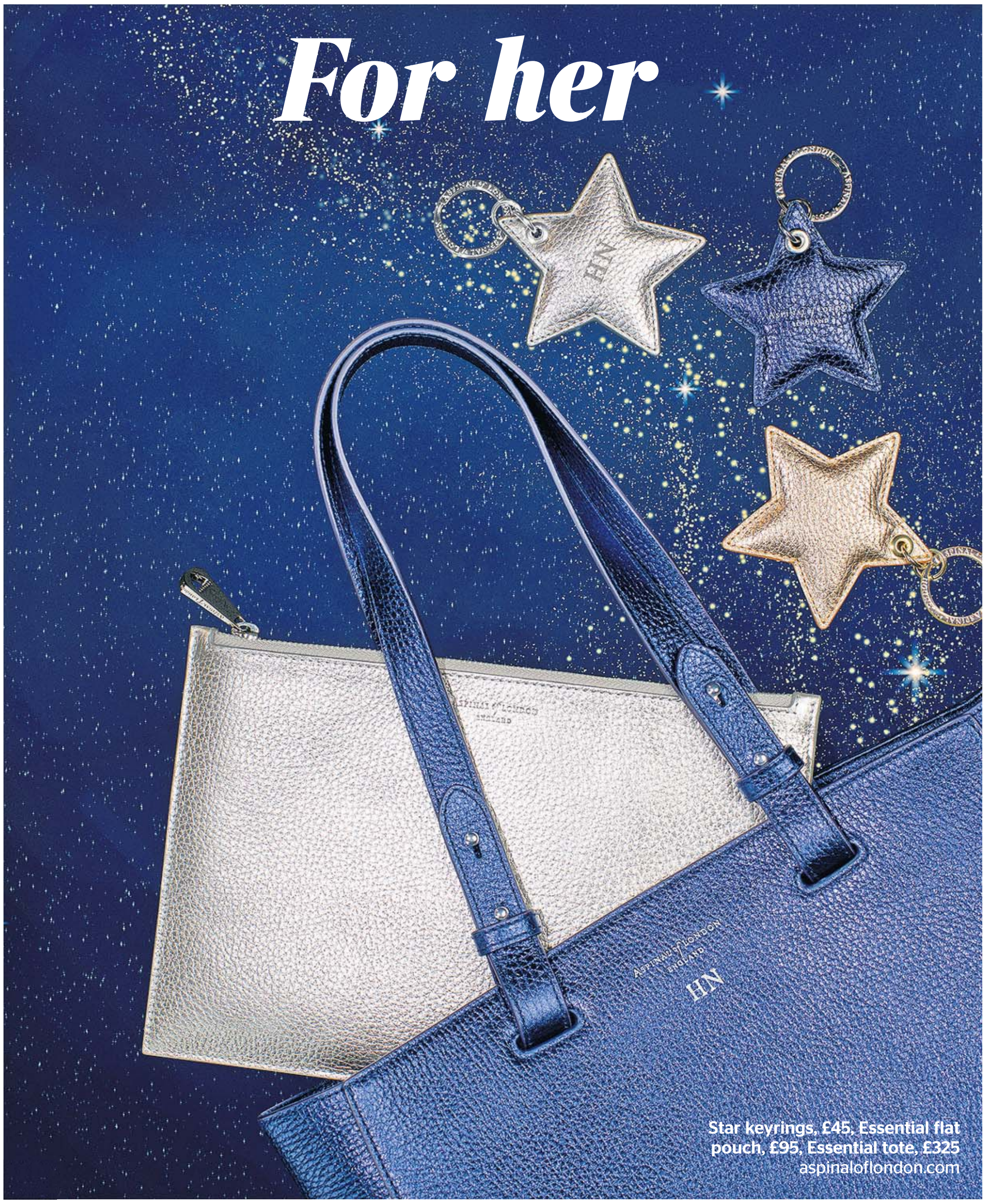
Pink pearl and gold vermeil earrings, £265
completedworks.com



Rose Gold Radiance Edit, £115
111skin.com



For her



Star keyrings, £45, Essential flat pouch, £95, Essential tote, £325
aspinaloflondon.com

Riviera slip dress, £55 omnes.com





Claudia mules, £330
loefflerrandall.com

Bonny Bag, £795
jandmdavidson.com



Ganni cap, £75 trouva.com



Madeline pearl necklace, £323 gaiastudio01.com



Sleeper x Browns pyjama set, £220 brownsfashion.com



Jug, £69 anna-nina.nl



Glass candlestick, £35
issygranger.com

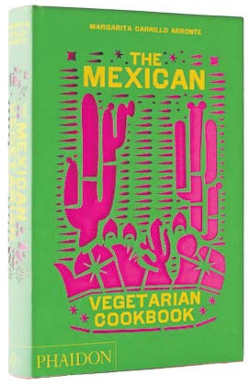



Welcome to
THE PEAT ELITE
A members club for peated whisky fanatics
Exclusive club reserve bottlings
Distillers journeyman samples
Guided tastings
Exclusive peated whisky content
Priority distillery access
Join us here
ISLE OF SKYE
TORABHAIG
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
Torabhaig.com/peat-elite
Please Drink Responsibly

Transparent speaker, £450
transpa.rent



Phaidon The Mexican Vegetarian Cookbook, £40 mrporter.com



Mother Denim basketball, £111
motherdenim.com



No 88 watch, £119
camdenwatchcompany



Chrome razor and stand, £250
bolinwebb.com



Trail Portofino paddleboard, £199.99
trailoutdoor leisure.co.uk





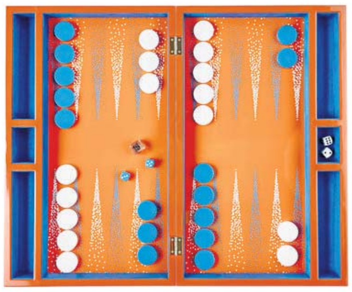
Blood orange and cranberry gin with gold leaf, £20 daylesford.com

For him



Golf ball ice moulds, £24.95
notonthehighstreet.com

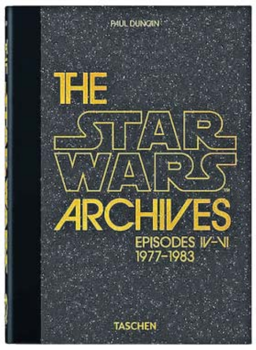
Backgammon set, £425
uk.jonathanadler.com



Lobster bottle opener, £48
fortnumandmason.com



The Star Wars Archives, £25
taschen.com



The Eaton suede desert boots, £224 fairfaxandfavor.com



Whiting overshirt, £125
waxlondon.com



Charging tray, £195
carlfriedrik.com



Boston suede mules, £120
birkenstock.com



Ski goggles, £115
messyweekend.com



Tom Dixon decanter, £140
beut.co.uk



Black truffle hot sauce, £19.99
selfridges.com



For kids

Photo Creator instant camera, £69.99 very.co.uk



Initial backpack, £20 smallstuffaccessories.com

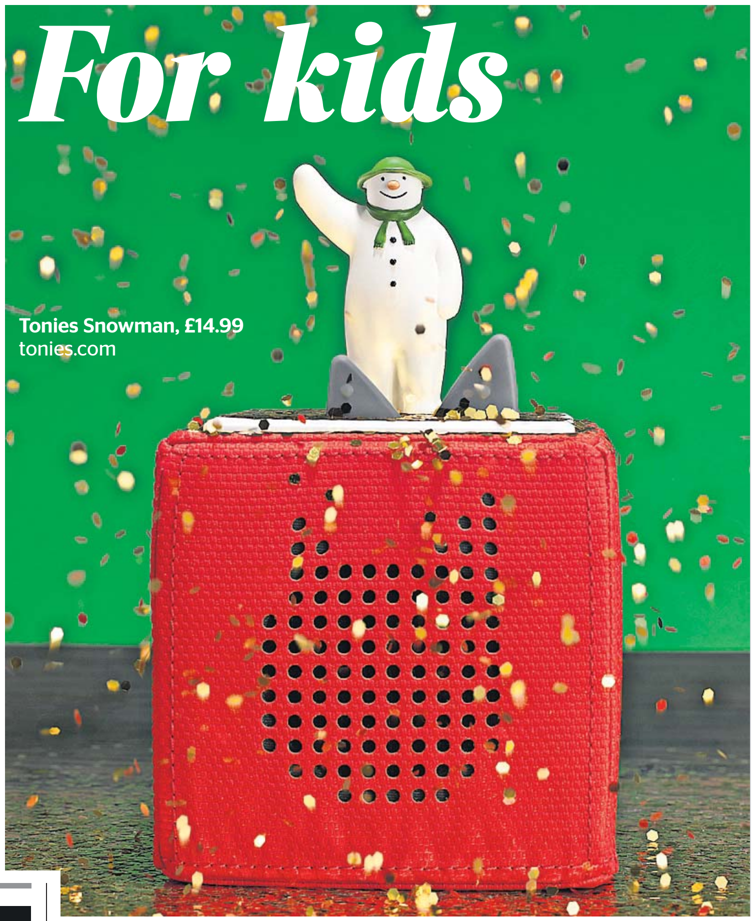


Meri Meri shark outfit, £65 johnlewis.com



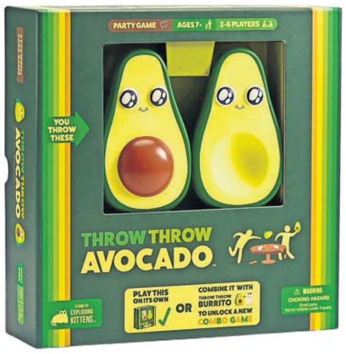
Pocket money tamagotchi, £16 selfridges.com





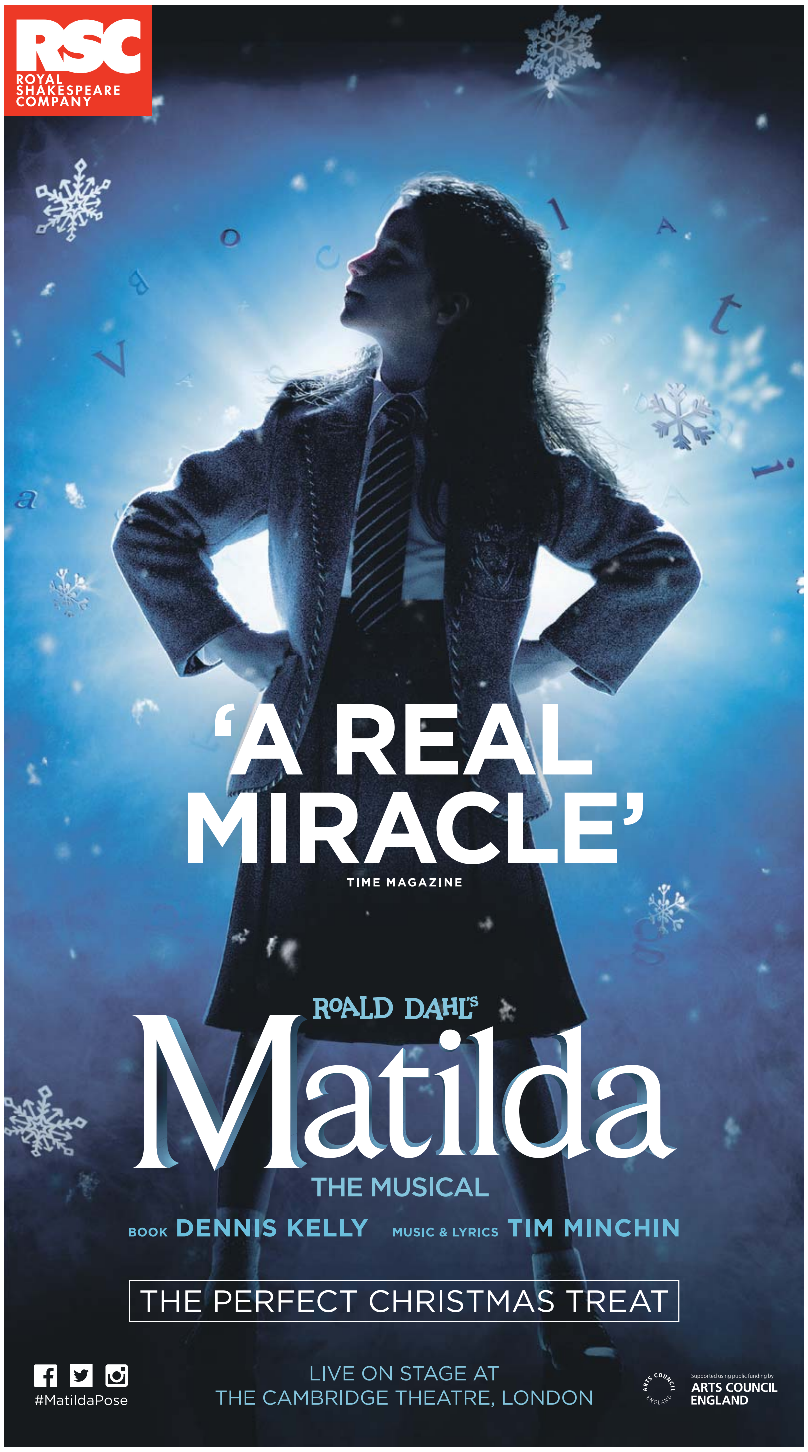
Tonies Snowman, £14.99 tonies.com

Throw Throw Avocado, £24.99 amazon.co.uk



Personalised wooden police car, £18.50 amazon.co.uk





Fitbit activity tracker, £49.99 fitbit.com



Jurassic World Ocean Protector Mosasaurus, £43.99 shopping.mattel.com



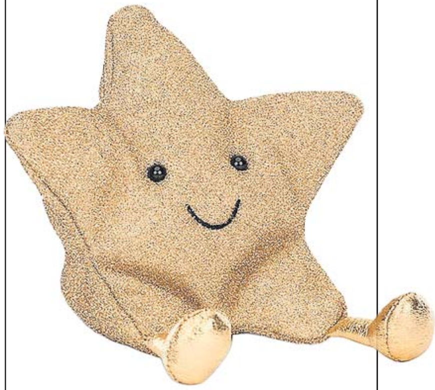
National Geographic telescope, £19.99 robertdyas.co.uk



SmartBall football, £25.99 toysrus.co.uk



Jellycat star, £13.50 fenwick.co.uk



VTech DJ set, £59.99 johnlewis.com



Ring set, £6 smallstuffaccessories.com

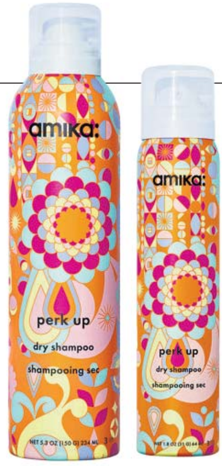


Janod retro scooter, £89.99 toystreet.co.uk



The Bader Ritual set, £280
augustinusbader.com





Amika Peace, Love and Perk Up dry shampoo set, £21 loveamika.co.uk

Lash Idôle mascara, £24
lancome.co.uk



The Great Hairdryer, £295
hershesons.com



Morphe No Silent Nights Artistry Palette, £25 uk.morphe.com



Jones Road start-up kit, £66
jonesroadbeauty.com





Elemis x Rixo The Story of Glam & Glow gift set, £65
uk.elemis.com

Chance Eau Tendre scented bath tablets, £53 chanel.com



Collistar Face Magic Drops self-tanning concentrate, 30ml, £28.99 lookfantastic.com



Brightening Essentials gift set, £50 roseinc.co.uk



Olaplex Hair Repair treatment kit, £60 cultbeauty.co.uk





Hourglass Ambient Lighting Edit Unlocked palette, £78 hourglass cosmetics.co.uk



Turbo Tong curling tong, from £135
turbotonghair.com

Gucci Rouge A Lèvres Lunaison lipstick, £36
fenwick.co.uk



Manucurist Christmas Essentials Collection, £70
thefrenchpharmacy.co



Cushion cover, from £129
kateloudounshand.com





Dinosaur Designs salad server set, £100
matchesfashion.com

Self-watering Smart Garden herb kit, £89.95 clickandgrow.com



Reed diffuser, £60 bamford.com



&Klevering lemon plate, £25
bode-living.com



Sophie Alda vase, £65
conranshop.co.uk





Home

Paper poppies, from £35 for three
paperbotanica.co.uk

Madison table lamp, £195
sohohome.com



Grind coffee machine, £285
selfridges.com





Harlie Brown Studio jug, £55
harliebrownstudio.co.uk

Coravin x Keith Haring wine preserver, £251.99 coravin.co.uk



Cinnamon and amber candle, £65
henrystownhouse.co.uk



Aarhus salt and pepper shaker, £75 trouva.com*

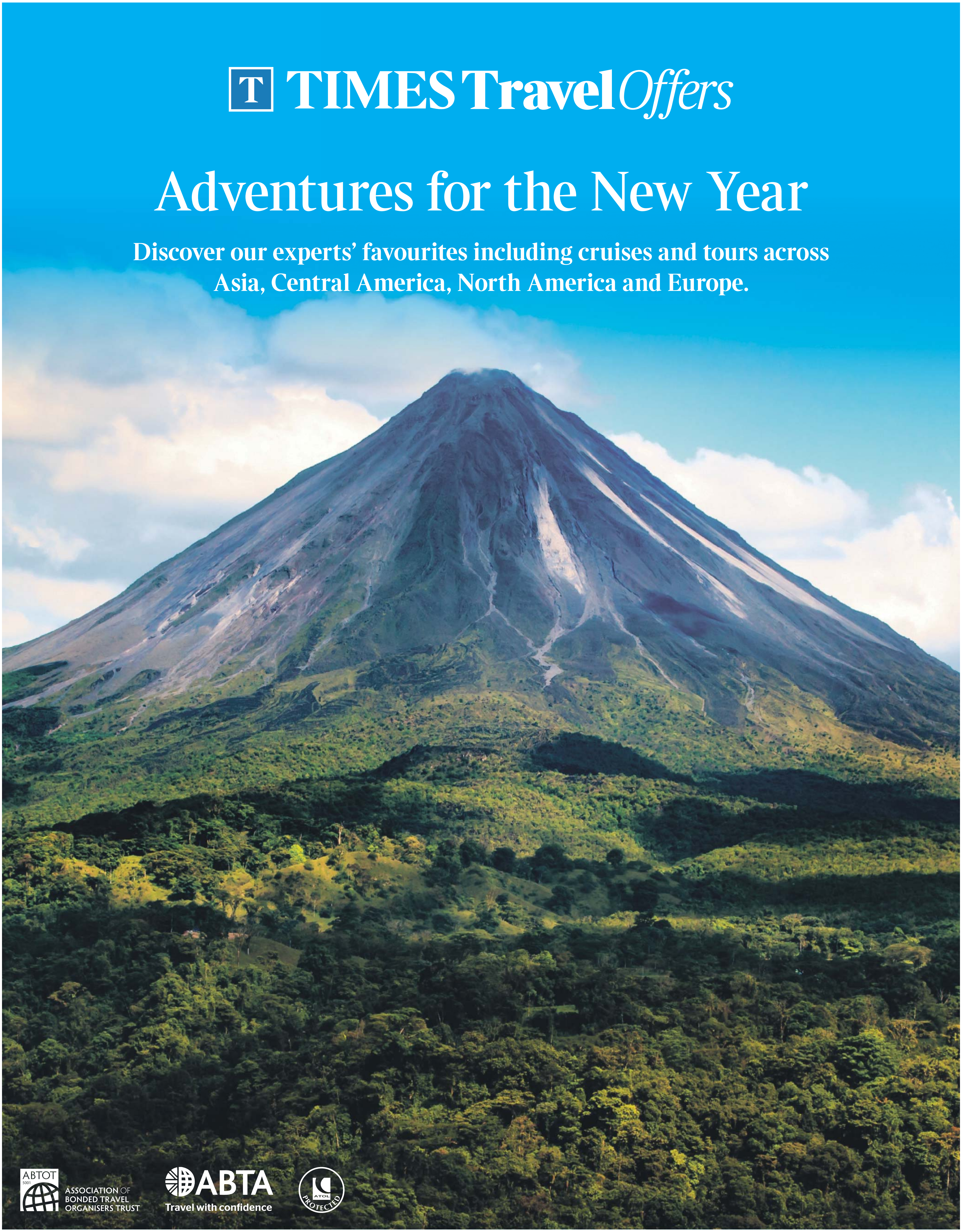


Faux sheepskin chair, £545
oliverbonas.com



Dinner set, from £24 for a bowl
conranshop.co.uk




TIMES Travel Offers
Adventures for the New Year
Discover our experts' favourites including cruises and tours across Asia, Central America, North America and Europe.
ABTOT 5001
ASSOCIATION OF BONDED TRAVEL ORGANISERS TRUST
ABTA
Travel with confidence
ATOL PROTECTED

TIMES Travel *Offers*



EIGHT DAYS FROM
£2,199*
per person

Portugal: Walking & Wine

PREMIUM ADVENTURE

Portugal has been making wine for centuries, with some estimates placing the first planting of vines as far back as 2000 BC. The Basto and Douro regions are perhaps the best known and offer rich landscapes and fascinating history to discerning visitors.

Led by our expert guide, Lina Ferreira, immerse yourself in atmospheric Porto and indulge in a voyage of taste and discovery through the verdant Douro Valley, where the famous Port wines are produced. Venture into the region known as Terras de Basto, home of Portugal's 'young' wine, vinho verde, and stay in handpicked hotels including the five-star Hotel Douro Scala, which boasts exceptional views over the valley. The perfect combination of leisurely walks and authentic cultural visits provide a memorable introduction to this lush, captivating country, once a dominant trading power in the world.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

Departures
April 2023 to October 2023

Price Includes
- ✓Return flights from London
- ✓Three nights in a five-star hotel and four nights in a four-star hotel
- ✓All breakfasts, two lunches, three dinners and three wine tastings
- ✓Four full days and two half days with gentle walks, plus two free half days
- ✓Travel by private air-conditioned minibus
- ✓Named tour leader, chosen for their expertise

CALL TODAY ON
0808 273 9558
QUOTE TIMES150^
thetimes.co.uk/ex-portugal

Our Trusted Partner
exodus*travels*

* Prices are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. ^Prices listed include £150pp discount, quote TIMES150 at time of booking. Prices listed are the lowest prices available per month, additional dates are available on request at equal or higher prices. Prices are correct at time of publication, and subject to confirmation at time of booking. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK.

ABTA Travel with confidence

TIMES Travel *Offers*



EIGHT DAYS FROM
£1,329*
per person

Amalfi coast walking tour

The perfect location for an Italy first timer or seasoned visitor, the Amalfi coast is best explored on foot. Witness spectacular views, quaint towns and the ancient ruins of Pompeii on this small group walking tour

The world-renowned Amalfi coast is one of the most dramatic and spellbinding in Europe.

Here mountains jut into the Mediterranean, with colourful towns nestled into coves and up the steep slopes. On this enchanting tour you'll walk up hills lined with lemon groves, deep gorges and back down through forests carpeted with wild flowers. Explore the vibrant towns of Positano, Ravello and Amalfi itself, as well as the ancient ruins of Pompeii, at the foot of the menacing Mount Vesuvius.

To top off this wonderful holiday, you'll end with the 'Walk of the Gods' when your efforts will be rewarded with an unforgettable view over the whole Amalfi coast. As well as taking in the area's magnificent scenery, you'll sample the local food and wine, living like Italians for the week.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

Departures
November 2022 to December 2023

Price Includes
- ✓Return flights from the UK
- ✓Transfers to and from the airport
- ✓Seven nights at Hotel Due Torri, with seven breakfasts, four packed lunches and six dinners
- ✓Services of a tour leader
- ✓Entrance fees and ferry tickets

CALL TODAY ON
0808 258 6878
QUOTE TIMES100^
thetimes.co.uk/ex-amalfi

Our Trusted Partner
exodus*travels*

*Prices correct at time of going to press. ^Quote TIMES100 to be eligible for a £100pp saving, included in the cost above. Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Additional dates may be available, please call for details. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. Prices are correct at time of publication, and subject to confirmation at time of booking. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. Items will be dispatched two weeks prior to departure to UK addresses only. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK.

ABTA Travel with confidence

TIMES Travel Offers

Times readers save £100pp with the code TIMES100^



Costa Rica Tour

Experience the rainforest, mountains and abundant wildlife of the tropical paradise of Costa Rica on a thrilling 15-day tour

This wonderful 15-day tour to Costa Rica will take you to incredible national parks, wildlife hotspots and on exciting hikes, all with the guidance of an expert. Costa Rica has more protected land than any other and is the perfect place to discover flora and fauna that you'll never forget. From Howler monkeys and catatonic sloths, to noisy toucans and busily nesting turtles (in season), it would be impossible to count the exciting species you'll see while you're here. Complete with cloud forests and lined with the Caribbean coast and Pacific coast, Costa Rica is a paradise waiting to be explored.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

15 DAYS FROM
£4,399* per person

Departures
December 2022 to December 2023

Price Includes
- ✓ Return flights from the UK, arrival and departure transfers
- ✓ All breakfasts, eight lunches, six dinners
- ✓ 14 nights' accommodation in comfortable hotels and lodges
- ✓ All transport and listed activities
- ✓ Services of a tour leader

CALL TODAY ON
0808 258 6009
QUOTE TIMES100^
thetimes.co.uk/ex-costarica

Our Trusted Partner
exodus travels

ABTA Travel with confidence

*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Tour is 15 days total including flights. Single supplement on request. Additional dates may be available, please call for details. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. Prices are correct at time of publication, and subject to confirmation at time of booking. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK. ^Quote TIMES100 to be eligible for the £100pp discount, included in the price above.

TIMES Travel Offers



TOUR UZBEKISTAN AND THE SECRETS OF
the Silk Road

If one country really defines the Silk Road it's turquoise-tiled Uzbekistan, a country at the heart of the fabled trading route. This 11-day small group tour includes Bukhara and Samarkand: two of the most enchanting Silk Road cities.

Desert citadels, ancient cities and colourful bazaars combine in Uzbekistan – a country where Unesco-listed treasures can be found at every turn.

This trip will take you to the wonderful city of Samarkand with its dazzling array of architectural and cultural treasures. You'll explore Bukhara's stunning monuments, mosques and madrasahs that show off the best of Islamic architecture. There's also an opportunity to explore the bustling capital of Tashkent, as well as the city of Khiva and its beautifully preserved walled old town.

This itinerary, exclusively curated for Times Travel Signature Collection, also allows for time to experience traditional village life in the Nuratau Mountains, a chance to tuck into the local cuisine – all in the company of expert guides.

Lonely Planet named Central Asia as "Best Region 2020" and with new visa-free access to Uzbekistan for British citizens, this is a great opportunity to see the best of the Silk Road cities condensed into 11 fascinating days.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

11 DAYS FROM
£2,195* per person

Departures
April to May 2023

Price Includes
- ✓ All accommodation
- ✓ All meals except 1 dinner
- ✓ All entrance fees, sightseeing, transport and excursions
- ✓ Full services of a Wild Frontiers tour leader and local guides

CALL TODAY ON
0808 274 5559
QUOTE TIMES
thetimes.co.uk/wf-uzbekistan

Our Trusted Partner
WILD FRONTIERS

*Prices correct at time of going to press. Price based on twin/double room share; optional single supplement from £295. Wild Frontiers can pair you up with a fellow traveller of the same sex to share a room at no supplement. International flights are not included but can be arranged on request. Holidays are operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Wild Frontiers, a company wholly independent of News UK. Wild Frontiers Adventure Travel Ltd: Unit 3, 8 Albemarle Way, London, EC1V 4JB; ATOL 5975, ABTOT protected. ATOL protection only applies to flight-inclusive holidays.

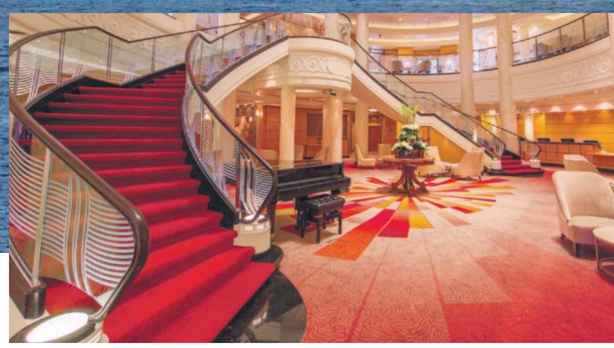
ABTOT Member 5228

TIMES Travel Offers

QUEEN MARY 2'S 2023 Literature Festival at Sea







Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word.

Find yourself absorbed in a true literary haven, surrounded by fellow book lovers, on board Cunard's Literature Festival at Sea. This event, curated by the programming team of *The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival*, sees authors, poets, journalists, critics, and historians unite, bringing the spirit of the Festival to your voyage.

Sailing aboard Queen Mary 2 is the ultimate way to cross the Atlantic. You'll find an incredible sense of freedom from the space she offers. Whether you're in the mood for complete relaxation or something more active, you can find it. Immerse yourself in enthralling entertainment, be indulged in the on board spa, or simply relax with a book in her vast library.

Take your Cunard voyage to new heights thanks to this seven-day programme of inspiring events designed to celebrate the written word in all its variety. Guests include bestselling authors Lynda La Plante, Clare Mackintosh and Antony Beevor; journalists Julia Wheeler and Daniel Finkelstein; literary agent Luigi Bonomi; comedians Marcus Brigstocke and Rachel Parris, and former Home Secretary and author Alan Johnson, to name just a few.

Start your morning with a daily dose of the news from The Times journalists, before losing yourself in thought-provoking conversation at workshops, Q&A sessions, and speaker events that cover all manner of subjects, both fact and fiction. Listen as literary greats discuss books, art, film, history, and politics, and meet your favourite writers at intimate book signings. Find bookish delights around every corner on this voyage that promises to both elevate and inspire.

Call the number on this advert and quote TIMES^ while booking to enjoy exclusive access to additional talks, events and workshops with your favourite writers, experts and journalists.

PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ Seven night Transatlantic Crossing aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York
- ✓ Economy-class flights and transfers from New York to the UK
- ✓ All meals and entertainment*
- ✓ Programme of literary events throughout the voyage
- ✓ Complimentary money to spend on-board**
- ✓ Access to additional events when you book direct with Cunard and quote TIMES^

OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES | TIMES RADIO CHELTENHAM Literature Festival

CUNARD

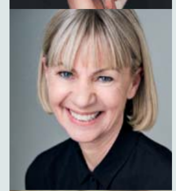
CONFIRMED EXPERTS

Full current list available online



Richard Osman

Richard is a British television producer and presenter on shows including Pointless and Richard Osman's House of Games. The Thursday Murder Club was his first novel, and was the fastest selling adult debut novel since JK Rowling's The Casual Vacancy.



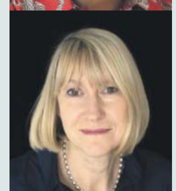
Kate Mosse

A number one international bestselling novelist, playwright and non-fiction writer. The author of six novels and short story collections – including the multimillion-selling Languedoc Trilogy, she is also the Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction.



Nikesh Shukla

Nikesh Shukla is a novelist and screenwriter. He is the author of Coconut Unlimited, Meatspace and the critically acclaimed The One Who Wrote Destiny. Nikesh's new book, Brown Baby: A Memoir Of Race, Family And Home was released on Bluebird in February 2021.



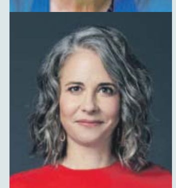
Clare Chambers

Clare Chambers' most recent book, Small Pleasures, became a word-of-mouth bestseller and was longlisted for the Women's Prize 2021 and won Page-turner of the year at the British Book Awards 2022.



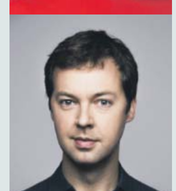
Val McDermid

Val McDermid has sold over 18.5 million books to date across the globe and is translated into more than 40 languages. She is perhaps best-known for her Wire in the Blood series.



Anna Murphy

Anna Murphy joined the Times as Fashion Director in 2015, having previously been the launch editor of Stella magazine at the Sunday Telegraph. Her latest book is called How Not To Wear Black. In 2023, we will also see a brand new offering titled Destination Fabulous, about ageing gracefully.



Andrew Hunter Murray

Andrew Hunter Murray is an author, comedian and broadcaster. His Sunday Times-bestselling novel The Last Day was published in 2020 and was one of the top ten fiction debuts of that year; his second novel, The Sanctuary, was published in 2022.



Alan Titchmarsh MBE VMH DL

A gardener, writer, novelist and broadcaster best known for programmes such as Ground Force, The Chelsea Flower Show and Secrets of the National Trust. He has written more than fifty gardening books, and twelve novels, ten of which have made the Sunday Times Best-seller List.

DEPARTURE: NOVEMBER 19, 2023

SEVEN NIGHTS FROM

INSIDE: £1,134 PP

BALCONY: £1,634 PP

PRINCESS GRILL SUITE: £3,754 PP

0808 301 3369

QUOTE TIMES

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details. Or visit

thetimes.co.uk/cu-litfestival

Cunard Fares shown are based on two adults sharing the lowest grade of stateroom available within the applicable stateroom type and are subject to availability. Fares for sole occupancy and supplementary fares are available on request. Speakers and on-board activities are subject to change. Some on-board activities will incur an additional charge. All information is correct at the time of going to print. For full terms and conditions visit cunard.com. *Cover charge applies for alternative dining options. **Complimentary money to spend on-board applies to new Cunard Fare bookings only. ^Book via the phone number on this advert and quote TIMES to enjoy access to additional on-board events for Times readers. This offer is available to UK residents only. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Cunard, ABTA V8764 ATOL 6294 protected, a company wholly independent of News UK.

ABTA Travel with confidence

ATOL PROTECTED

TIMES Travel Offers



THREE DAYS FROM
£2,599*
per person

Departure
October 27, 2023

Price Includes

- ✓Official Match tickets for the 2023 Rugby World Cup final – Category Four – options to upgrade
- ✓Return Eurostar to Paris
- ✓Eurostar transfers
- ✓Gullivers representatives
- ✓Two nights accommodation in Paris with breakfast at the four-star Hotel Dress Code
- ✓Gullivers Clubhouse event included for all Times readers

Our Trusted Partner

Gullivers sports travel — EXPERIENCE IT LIVE

Rugby World Cup 2023 Final

Rugby's biggest event, the 2023 Rugby World Cup final. Come to Paris to see who will be crowned Rugby World Cup France 2023 champions. Join Gullivers Sports Travel who are offering a fantastic action-packed weekend in Paris.

Travel to Paris on the Eurostar from St Pancras. Arriving in Paris we will transfer you by coach to your hotel where you can check in for a two-night stay for Rugby World Cup France 2023. Welcome to France's capital city. Tickets to the main event on the Saturday are included to the 2023 Rugby World Cup final. Watch the 2023 Rugby World Cup final and witness history live! On the Sunday after the final you will be transferred back to the Eurostar for your return back to St Pancras.

Day one – Depart London

Check-in at St Pancras International for your Eurostar journey to Paris. On arriving in Paris we will transfer you by coach to your hotel where you can check in for a two-night stay for Rugby World Cup France 2023.

Day two – Rugby World Cup Final 2023

Today sees the all-important Final of the Rugby World Cup France 2023 take place at the Stade de France. You are invited to the Gullivers Clubhouse for a Q&A with ex-players and pundits. During the event you have a chance to mingle with likeminded fans before the main event. Then make your own way to the Stade de France, soaking up the atmosphere that comes only with the magic of major sporting tournaments. The Stade de France is in the Saint-Denis area of Paris and there are plenty of ways to get to the stadium using public transport, using either the RER, Metro or tram followed by a short walk to the stadium.

Day Three – Depart Paris

Check out of your hotel this morning. We will transfer you by coach to the station for your return Eurostar journey to London.

Official Travel Agent

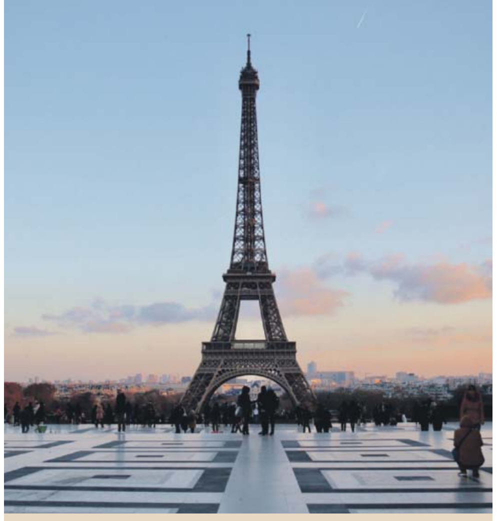
Gullivers Sports Travel is an Official Travel Agent for Rugby World Cup France 2023. As the UK's leading and longest established rugby sports tour operator, their extensive knowledge and passion for unbeatable delivery has been built over 40 years. They have taken over 50,000 supporters to follow their teams since the very first Rugby World Cup back in 1987 and this will be the ninth official appointment for a Rugby World Cup, meaning the all-important match tickets are included and guaranteed. The package is also fully ATOL and ABTA protected for peace of mind.

RUGBY WORLD CUP FRANCE 2023
OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENT



CALL TODAY ON
0808 301 7506
QUOTE TIMES-PR

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details. Or visit **thetimes.co.uk/gt-rwcfinal**



WHAT WE Love

Paris is the second most visited city in the world and with every visit there are new experiences to be had, whether it is cruising the Seine, ascending the Eiffel Tower, visiting the Louvre museum or finding a café bar in Montmartre from which to enjoy watching its famous painters

*Prices are correct at time of going to press. Price based on two sharing. Single supplement applies. The offer is subject to availability and Gullivers Sports Travel reserve the right to change or withdraw the offer. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Gullivers Sports Travel, ABTA V8321 ATOL 3720 protected, a company wholly independent of News UK. Some images courtesy of Getty Images.

ABTA Travel with confidence
ATOL PROTECTED

TIMES Travel Offers



Times Travel Offers:

Brand new itinerary in Norway

Northern Lights Arctic Fjord

WHALE WATCHING CRUISE WITH HUSKY SAFARI

Spend five nights on a small-ship expedition of Northern Norway's Arctic fjords and one night in the bustling city of Tromsø

Arctic fjords, whale watching, husky safari, reindeer, Northern Lights, Sámi culture and an Arctic train journey – the bucket list activities in this itinerary just keep coming and coming! This short break incorporates so many of the highlights of Arctic Norway, but what makes it even more special is the expert local team of guides who will be on hand throughout your time onboard to make sure you get the best Norwegian Holiday experience.

By choosing this holiday you really are giving yourself the best chance of seeing the Northern Lights whilst also enjoying some other awesome winter activities too.

Your itinerary starts with a night-time visit to the Fjellheisen Cable Car which provides stunning panoramic views across the city of Tromsø and its surrounding fjords.

Once back on board the ship you will depart on your adventure toward the Lyngen Alps.

Over the next few days, you will explore this local area both by sea and on some hand-selected land excursions too, which will allow you to meet some of the fascinating locals. A real highlight of this holiday will be seeing the Arctic animals along the way.

It is common to see killer whales, humpbacked whales and white-tailed sea eagles and the crew will endeavour to get you to the right location when there have been sightings reported on the radar. You will also have the opportunity to get up close to reindeer and huskies during some of the activities.

At the end of your Arctic adventure, you will disembark and travel back to Tromsø from Narvik which is right on the Swedish border. When you are back in Tromsø you will spend your final evening in the city with a host of restaurants to choose from. Depending on your flight time home, the following day you may be able to visit one of the city's many museums before transferring to the airport for your return flights.

Please note: this itinerary also operates in reverse. Your Travel Expert will advise the direction of your itinerary depending on your departure date at the time of booking. The start and end point for both tours is Tromsø.



SEVEN DAYS FROM
£3,795*
per person

Departures

February to April 2023

Price Includes

- ✓ Flights: return from London to Tromsø (either direct or via Oslo depending on departure date). Flight routes are subject to change
- ✓ Transfers: return airport transfers and all activity transfers in the itinerary, Arctic train journey
- ✓ Accommodation: five nights in a standard twin cabin (upgrades may be available depending on availability and subject to supplement), one night in a standard double/twin room at Clarion Hotel - The Edge
- ✓ Meals: Full board meals (tea and coffee included only)
- ✓ Activities: Fjellheisen cable car visit and night-time photography workshop, multiple whales and other Arctic animal watching excursions (either by zodiac or onboard the MS Quest), Sámi culture experience and Aurora Camp, Trollfjord, Henningsvær and history of Arctic fishing, Nusfjord village, Lofotr Viking Museum, city walk on Svolvær, Lighthouse visit, World War II history and Northern Lights chase, Arctic train journey and husky safari (order of activities is subject to change)
- ✓ Multiple lectures and photography workshops and mentoring with the onboard expert expedition crew headed up by Nikon Ambassador, Roger Brendhagen

Our Trusted Partner

AURORA ZONE

CALL TODAY ON
0808 296 6221
QUOTE TIMES

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details. Or visit **thetimes.co.uk/az-cruise**

WHAT WE Love

See the very best of Norway, from natural phenomena to experiences with the local people

Based on two sharing a Twin/Double room on board MS Quest and at the Clarion Hotel The Edge. Single supplement applies, on request. Subject to availability. Itinerary details are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone:Studio 207-208, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Walker Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865, ABTA Y6261, a company wholly separate from News UK.

ABTA Travel with confidence
ATOL PROTECTED

TIMES Travel Offers



Times Travel Offers Exclusive:

Free city tour and Fjellheisen cable car pass

FOUR DAYS FROM

£1,595*

per person

Departures

January to March 2023

Price Includes

- ✓ Return indirect flights from London to Tromsø and airport transfers
- ✓ Three nights' bed and breakfast standard hotel room accommodation at Clarion Hotel The Edge
- ✓ Meet and greet on arrival
- ✓ Guided activities including polar fjord cruise, reindeer camp dinner with Northern Lights watch and Northern Lights sailing
- ✓ Three breakfasts and two dinners

Our Trusted Partner

AURORA ZONE

NORWAY: TROMSØ AND

the Northern Lights Holiday

Enjoy three nights in Tromsø, 'Capital of the Arctic', and experience captivating fjords and spectacular winter scenery

Experience a city break with a difference as you enjoy Tromsø's cosmopolitan centre as well as its captivating natural surroundings - the perfect spot to search the skies for the Northern Lights. To maximise your chances of seeing this phenomenon, we've teamed up with Aurora Travel Experts and Northern Lights holiday specialists, The Aurora Zone to create this exclusive itinerary.

During this three-night stay, you'll sail between dramatic fjords and search for Arctic wildlife during a guided sightseeing cruise, before taking to the seas under the dark night sky as you go Aurora hunting on a catamaran.

You'll also spend an evening in the company of the indigenous Sámi people at a local reindeer farm. Here, you'll enjoy traditional food, listen to stories about life in the north and get to meet and feed the all-important reindeer. The farm is situated away from city lights which makes it prime Aurora territory - so this evening is also an ideal chance to keep an eye on the night sky for a potential display of the mesmerising Northern Lights.

This carefully crafted itinerary includes plenty of time to experience the Arctic in your own way too. Whether you want to explore the city further or tick off a winter bucket list activity like a husky safari, our partner's Travel Experts will be happy to share their first-hand knowledge and help you to tailor this fantastic itinerary and make the most of your time in Tromsø.



CALL TODAY ON

0808 296 1910

QUOTE TIMES

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details. Or visit **thetimes.co.uk/az-norway**



WHAT WE Love

Years of passion, scientific research, expert knowledge and first-hand experience have gone into creating The Aurora Zone's unparalleled holidays.

*Based on two sharing, please call for alternative options and dates. Subject to availability, itinerary details are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Walker Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865, ABTA Y6261., a company wholly separate from News UK. Image Credit Ole C Salomonsen.

ABTA Travel with confidence



Times Travel Offers Exclusive:

Free Reykjavik sightseeing tour

FIVE DAYS FROM
£1,595*
per person

Departures
December 2022 to March 2023

Price Includes
- ✓Return direct flights from London to Keflavik and scheduled shuttle bus airport transfers
- ✓Four nights' hotel room accommodation at Hotel Reykjavik Centrum with breakfast & one dinner in Reykjavik
- ✓Activities including whale watching, Northern Lights hunt by minibus, Golden Circle and Secret Lagoon tour, admission to the Blue Lagoon and Northern Lights boat trip
- ✓Flexible departure dates

HIGHLIGHTS OF
Iceland Northern Lights

Witness the incredible power of nature during this four-night stay in Iceland. Its sparkling lagoons, bubbling geysers and shimmering aurora await you in the land of fire and ice

Hunt for the spectacular Northern Lights on land and at sea, tour the magical Golden Circle with its cascading waterfalls, tectonic plates and erupting geysers, search for whales and dolphins and explore Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital, during this exclusive four-night exploration of Iceland.

To make the most of your time in this unique destination and maximise your chances of spotting the spectacular borealis, we've teamed up with Northern Lights holiday experts, The Aurora Zone, to create the perfect itinerary.

Iceland has many natural wonders. You'll see several of the country's highlights during your tour of the Golden Circle where you can gaze upon the Strokkur geyser shooting steaming water high into the air, Thingvellir National Park where two tectonic plates meet to form a rift valley, and Gullfoss, the island's famed three-tiered waterfall.

Take a dip in the geothermal, powder-blue waters of the Blue Lagoon, which has a world-renowned spa and fine-dining restaurant. There will also be a visit to the Secret Lagoon, Iceland's oldest natural swimming pool and home to plentiful hot springs and mini geysers.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

CALL TODAY ON
0808 258 5804
QUOTE TIMES
thetimes.co.uk/az-iceland

Our Trusted Partner
AURORA ZONE

ABTA Travel with confidence

*Prices correct at time of going to press. *Based on two sharing. Flexible departures dates available on request. Subject to availability, itinerary details are subject to change. Call for further details on the Reykjavik tour. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone, Studio 207-208, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865, ABTA Y6261. Photography credits: Ragnar Th Sigurdsson, Arctic Images, and Iceland Pro Travel.



EIGHT DAYS FROM
£2,795*
per person

Departures
January to March 2023

Price Includes
- ✓Return flights from London to Ivalo and airport transfers (via Helsinki)
- ✓Four nights' full-board standard hotel room accommodation at Wilderness Hotel Inari
- ✓Three nights' full-board accommodation in an Aurora Cabin at the Northern Lights Village
- ✓Guided activities including snowmobile safari, Aurora camp, visit to Sámi Siida Museum, Aurora snowshoeing, Aurora photography workshop, husky sledding, Aurora Hunt by heated sleigh and short reindeer sleigh ride.
- ✓Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay

Northern Lights holiday
IN FINLAND

Marvel at the magic of the Northern Lights, be whisked away on a thrilling husky safari, visit a reindeer farm and try your hand at snowmobiling, all on this seven-night spectacular winter holiday in Finnish Lapland.

The Aurora Borealis is a remarkable natural phenomenon which should be seen at least once in a lifetime, so we've teamed up with Northern Lights holiday experts, The Aurora Zone, to design a tour which maximises your Aurora viewing opportunities.

Combining two of the most desirable destinations in Finnish Lapland, this incredible seven-night holiday has been specially designed to show you the very best of Finnish Lapland.

From dog sledding over the unspoiled frozen landscapes, to dedicated hunts for the Northern Lights and sleeping in your very own glass roofed Aurora Cabin, this week-long break completely immerses you in the magic of the Arctic wilderness.

Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

CALL TODAY ON
0808 258 5703
QUOTE TIMES
thetimes.co.uk/az-finland

Our Trusted Partner
AURORA ZONE

ABTA Travel with confidence

*Based on two sharing an Aurora Kota at NLV and a standard wilderness room at Inari. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. Itinerary details are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone:Studio 207-208, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Walker Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865, ABTA Y6261. Photography credits: Northern Lights Village Saariselka.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2 2022
THE TIMES

Bricks&Mortar



Ceramic jug, £49.50
oliverbonas.com



Bumble stool, £460 for two
loaf.com

20 gifts for the home

OUR PICK OF THE BEST PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

pages 6-7



Linneback easy chair, £60
ikea.com



Stoneware butter dish, £34
rowenandwren.co.uk

Home of the week

Saxon foundations, royal etchings and Armada timbers — this manor is a history buff's dream

The star-studded story of Great Tangley Manor — said to be Britain's oldest continuously inhabited house — begins more than 1,000 years ago. Its Saxon foundations date from 1016; a homestead on the site was thought to be owned by King Harold's younger brother, Alnod Cilt. Later, according to the Domesday Book, Odo the Bishop of Bayeux, a half-brother of William the Conqueror, became its owner.

The grade I listed moated manor, less than four miles from Guildford, Surrey, was reputedly Prince John's hunting lodge in the 12th century. It was almost entirely burnt down in the 1100s and partially rebuilt as a medieval hall house in the 15th century. The Tudor frontage and Elizabethan panelling were added in 1582. In 1884 Wickham Flower, a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, employed the architect Philip Webb — sometimes called the father of Arts and Crafts architecture — to restore and extend the house.

On Flower's death Colonel Edmund Hegan Kennard, a Conservative MP, bought the manor and was often visited by Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Fritz Ponsonby and his wife, Ria, the daughter of Kennard, inherited it in 1912. They hosted George V and Queen Mary; the royals marked their 1913 visit by signing the windows in the grand dining room using a diamond ring. George V's son, George VI, also etched his name.

The manor was divided in two in 1959 and the pool was put in during the 1960s. The present owner, Anne Powell-Evans, and her husband, Glyn, bought one half of the manor in 1997. She worked in child protection; Glyn works in TV and film.

"[The manor] hadn't been cherished for many years," she recalls. They set about trying to restore the house and the gardens — their extensive renovations even uncovered a priest hole.

When their neighbour in the west wing died in 2005, the couple bought the other side of the house with the aim of reuniting the ten-bedroom residence. They revitalised its nearly ten acres of gardens, dredged the lake and, Powell-Evans says, replaced "the most hideous polycarbonate conservatory" with a glass-box extension leading off the kitchen, for which they won a design award.

Labour of love is an understatement: "We've spent millions on restoring it." The couple live mainly in one five-bedroom section featuring a characterful hall, a six-sided drawing room and dining room with timbers from the Spanish Armada. The other five-bedroom portion has been used as a self-contained luxury holiday let with three reception rooms and a kitchen.

Grounds include a tennis court, wisteria walk and bog garden. The lake is frequented by herons, kingfishers, egrets, geese and ducks. "Nobody knows we're here. I can stand in the garden and hear nothing. On the other hand it takes six minutes to get to the centre of Guildford. We're right in the Surrey Hills — we've got horses and can ride straight on to a bridleway."

The Powell-Evanses say they will miss the manor but are downsizing close by.
Victoria Brzezinski

Great Tangley Manor is on the market for £11 million with Savills and Strutt & Parker

Sign up to our property newsletter for the latest analysis, gossip, tips and tricks every Monday at thetimes.co.uk/newsletters





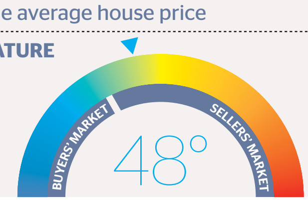
GU5 The postcode in numbers

In this part of Surrey 48% of properties for sale are under offer, rising to 68% of those costing £1 million or more

23% Decrease in buyer demand in the past year

£942,126 is the average house price

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE
SELLERS' MARKET
The hotter the market, the quicker and easier it should be to sell a home



Source: Propcast and Rightmove

What £450,000 buys you in …

Compiled by Georgia Lambert
@GLJourno

Devon

Pretty in pink, this terraced cottage is a few minutes' walk from Dartmouth's bustling town centre and the tranquil River Dart. On the ground floor is a sitting/dining room with beams, a brick fireplace and wood-burner, and a cosy kitchen. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a family bathroom with a spacious shower. Outside, a higgledy-piggledy garden filled with tropical plants and a greenhouse. There is off-road parking for one car. You can get to London Paddington in less than three hours from nearby Totnes.
Air pollution 7.1mcg/m³ particulate pollution annual average; 2.1mcg/m³ above the WHO guideline of 5mcg/m³.
Upside Sailing fans will love Dartmouth's annual royal regatta.
Downside The views could be more expansive.
Contact marchandpetit.co.uk



Powys

Marble fireplaces throughout add character to this semi-detached family home with 2,758 sq ft of living space in the heart of Newtown in the Severn Valley. The beautifully tiled hallway leads to a chandeliered drawing room, a dining room and a kitchen with a pantry and steps down to a cellar/games room. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a study. There is a pretty garden and an acre of secluded grounds. And the Severn Way trail — accessed via woodland adjacent to the gardens — is an anorak-swish away. There is a good selection of primary and secondary schools in the town and a wide range of supermarkets to choose from.
Air pollution 6.6mcg/m³; 1.6mcg/m³ above the WHO guideline of 5mcg/m³.
Upside It has super-fast broadband.
Downside Some rooms need updating.
Contact fineandcountry.com









Brief encounter
Ask the expert

Q My tenants want to move out halfway through their tenancy. I am happy as long as I can find new tenants quickly and don't lose rent during the void. Can tenants legally end their tenancy early?

A Most assured shorthold tenancy agreements are for fixed periods of six or twelve months. Tenants can't simply move out without having to pay rent for the full period of the agreement. But they do have two options to end their tenancies during the fixed term.

They may be able to exercise a tenant's break clause in their tenancy agreement. But unless they strictly comply with any formalities and conditions in the agreement, the notice will be ineffective. Sections 196 (1) and (5) of the Law of Property Act 1925 also mean tenants' break notices must be in writing.

Parties may also surrender the tenancy part way through the term. A surrender is a consensual act signifying mutual recognition that the tenancy is over. The tenant and landlord can sign a formal deed of surrender. But informal surrenders "by operation of law" can also be implied. A classic example is where tenants hand back the keys and their landlord accepts them unconditionally. But even that may not always work. In the Victorian case of *Oastler v Henderson*, the Court of Appeal decided a tenancy was not surrendered where the tenant simply went to America and left the keys with a letting agent.

Landlords who don't want to lose rent during a void can therefore quite properly market the property without risking any loss of rent. But they should write to the tenants explaining that they don't accept any surrender, and that the tenancy will continue until new tenants move in.

Your tenants can therefore end the tenancy early if there is a break clause in the agreement. Otherwise, you don't have to agree to surrender until the property is re-let.

Mark Loveday is a barrister with Tanfield Chambers.
Email your question to brief.encounter@thetimes.co.uk



View the UK's most luxurious residential properties
MANSION GLOBAL
mansionglobal.com/london

Cumbria

This cottage is in Caldbeck village, in the very north of the Lake District. A good-sized living room has French doors that open on to a garden with a decked seating area sheltered by a pergola. The country kitchen has fitted cabinets. Stairs rise from a cosy snug to a bedroom with an en suite shower room. The remaining three bedrooms and two bathrooms are accessed by the main staircase. There is off-road parking, and local treasures such as the crafts at Priest's Mill, an 18th-century watermill.

Air pollution 4.9mcg/m³; 0.1mcg/m³ below the WHO guideline of 5mcg/m³.
Upside Stunning views at every turn, including of the village cricket ground, which backs on to the garden.
Downside It is remote — the nearest hospital (Penrith) is about half an hour away by car.
Contact finestproperties.co.uk



Normandy, France

This 18th-century mansion in the Normandy region of Saint-Pierre-lès-Elbeuf is crying out to hold lavish parties. Set back from a tree-lined main road (the D840) that winds over the River Seine to the ancient city of Rouen, this whitewashed, pale blue-shuttered home has seven bedrooms and a selection of outbuildings that with some love could have bags of holiday-let potential. The property has plenty of details to lust over, including parquet flooring, honeycomb tiling and built-in storage. A handful of amenities are a short drive away — including patisseries galore.

Upside It is wheelchair-accessible.
Downside Normandy winters can be chilly.
Contact hamptons.co.uk



Moving stories

Your tales from up and down the property ladder

‘We want to sell at the top of the market’

We’re downsizing five years early so we can sell at the top of the market and help our children on to the property ladder [says Kay Brown, 64].

We’ve lived at Old Farm, a four-bedroom, grade II listed former farmhouse in Toft, Cambridgeshire, for the past six years. I recently retired from selling vintage clothing, and my husband, James, a farmer, is 65. We had originally planned to downsize later down the line, perhaps when we were 70, but we really want to be able to release some equity to our children sooner rather than later.

Property prices in Cambridgeshire seem to still be going up — there still seems to be a market for bigger houses, there are plenty of buyers out there and we want to be able to make the most of the current market. We’re not sure what’s going to happen to the market in the future so we thought it would be wise to sell now.

At the same time, as interest rates keep rising and property prices around Cambridge keep growing, it’s getting harder and harder for our children, aged 30 and 34, to buy. The rate rises have really hurt them: they’re trying to save for a deposit but it keeps getting further and further away.

So we’ve put Old Farm on the market for £1.3 million. We plan to move to our two-bedroom converted barn, College Farm Court, in the village of Barton, southwest of Cambridge, which we bought in 2010 for £485,000, and have been letting since 2016, the year we bought Old Farm. One of the reasons we moved to Old Farm is that it had a bigger garden. I love the garden — it has a vegetable bed, a greenhouse, a pergola and a terrace. In the past we’ve opened it for the National Garden Scheme. But we thought that as we get older, we won’t want as much garden to tend. It takes a lot of effort. And we want to downsize to reduce our energy costs.

When we bought Old Farm in 2016, we had actually put College Farm Court on the market. We had 26 viewings and seven offers. My husband realised what a popular village Barton was and that property prices were going up. And I absolutely love that house and always wanted to end up living there: its bedrooms are all on the ground floor and the garden is small.





Above: Kay and James Brown with their daughter, Alex. Top: Old Farm

So James looked at the finances and worked out that we could get a mortgage on Old Farm, and instead of selling the converted barn, we could keep it, rent it out and be no worse off. And because the property market was increasing, he said hopefully we’ll get an increase in value on two properties rather than one, which is what has happened. We paid £835,000 for Old Farm back in 2016, so hopefully we’re in a better position now.

Yes, we’ll be losing out on the rental income when we move back into the converted barn. But overall it’s a better decision, because when we sell Old Farm, we will be mortgage free, so hopefully it will all balance out with the way interest rates are at present. We were worried that if interest rates go up any more, we might miss the boat on selling now.

I don’t have regrets about selling. Our children want to get on and progress in life. It’s so expensive round here — and we feel that we can help them. It’s such a shame that young people can’t get on the ladder in so many places. I feel so sorry for the younger generation, because the cost of the property is so much higher in proportion to their wages than it was when we were that age.

My daughter is self-employed: she does upholstery and curtains. Our son, Max, works on the family farm (the land is separate from Old Farm), and has his own business renting out storage containers. They’re both renting. We feel a sense of responsibility to help them. We’ve had an increase in our property values, but they’re finding it difficult to save for a deposit. We feel that we’ve had it good.

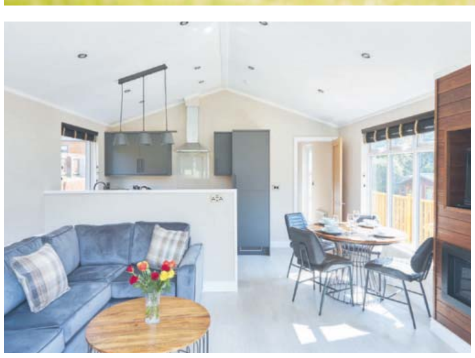
The Bank of Mum and Dad is very important for lots of people, but obviously some people can’t do it. We feel very, very lucky that we’ll hopefully be able to do this for our children.

Interview by Hugh Graham

Old Farm is on the market with Cheffins for £1.3 million; cheffins.co.uk

Have your say Would you like to share your moving story? Email **carol.lewis@thetimes.co.uk**







ESCAPE TO YOUR OWN LUXURY LODGE IN THE HEART OF DEVON

2 and 3 bedroom lodges available

Set in over 60 acres of beautifully landscaped parkland on the edge of Dartmoor National Park and just three miles from the golden sands of the English Riviera, Devon Hills is the perfect holiday hide-away.

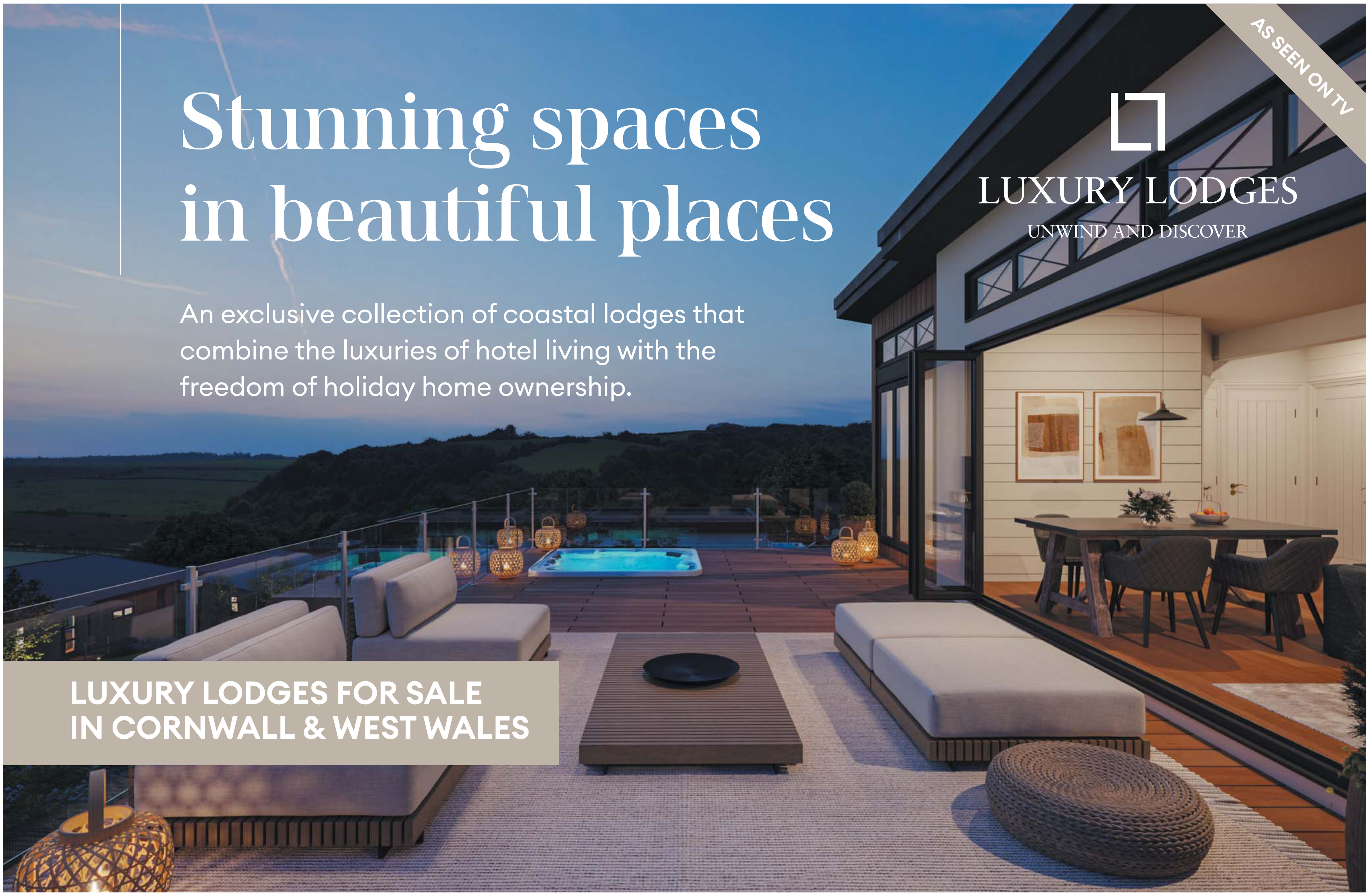
Our fully-fitted, 2 and 3 bedroom luxury holiday homes have all you could wish for, come fully furnished and are ready to stay in immediately.

- 12 Month holiday season
- On site restaurant & bar
- All lodges fully furnished in the price
- Set in 60 acres of beautiful parkland

For ownership details call 0800 151 0590 or visit haulfrynholidays.co.uk/BAM

DEVON HILLS HOLIDAY PARK

*Terms and conditions apply. Annual pitch fees payable. Price shown based on current availability at Devon Hills Holiday Park. Some images are for illustration purposes. Lodge purchase must be completed by midnight on 31st January 2023. Offer available on new purchases against selected properties. No cash alternative offered. Not transferable. Cannot be redeemed on purchases already being processed. Subject to availability.





Stunning Interiors



Beautiful Locations



Fantastic Facilities

Surrounded by acres of countryside in West Wales and Cornwall, our brand new two and three-bedroom Residences offer a new way to holiday, time and time again. Each property features striking architecture, state-of-the-art amenities, and a spacious outdoor terrace. Plus, all owners have access to world-class spa facilities, restaurants and fully managed subletting service in addition to a whole host of exclusive benefits.

Prices start from £250,000*

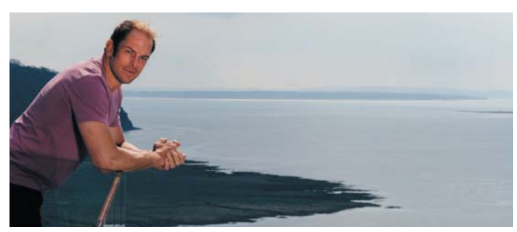
We even have flexible finance options available.

*Per property

Contact us 0808 258 9243

residences.luxurylodges.com/times

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



"The lodges offer luxury hotel quality, but it's nice to have your own space and area to chill out in the hot tub," he said. "For my six-year-old, it's like having her very own Tŷ Bach Twt! (Wendy House) She's in her element here. While it sounds like a bit of a cliché, this is a home from home where we have nothing but quality time together."

Wales and British & Lions Rugby Union legend, Alun Wyn Jones our brand ambassador often spends time at his Residence with his young family.

COVER STORY

20 gifts for the home

Compiled by Katrina Burroughs and Victoria Brzezinski





Christmas gifts for the home are fiendishly difficult to get right. They demand in-depth knowledge of the giftee's taste and household inventory. More importantly, choosing a great present for the bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen requires the strength to resist buying a statement object — one that has to be unwrapped with a ta-da!

Our advice is to forget flashy fine china and save-it-for-best crystal. The most covetable home gifts are exceptional everyday objects: a mug of precisely the right size and heft, a handmade jug for the dining table, a cosy woven throw in blue-grey or a snazzier tartan in the softest cashmere. This is the kit that will quietly improve daily life.

So our Christmas list includes a tactile oak chopping board and a stoneware butter dish, a leather laundry basket, block-printed cotton tea towels and extra-long matches in a pretty box — and prices start at £9.99. As gifts go, these are mostly relatively inexpensive. The mark of an outstanding festive gift? You will be tempted to order two and keep one for yourself.

▲ Linneback olive green easy chair; £60, ikea.com



▶ Large denim porcelain jug; £38, davidmellordesign.com

▼ Mustard and blue soft pet bed; from £85, oliverbonas.com





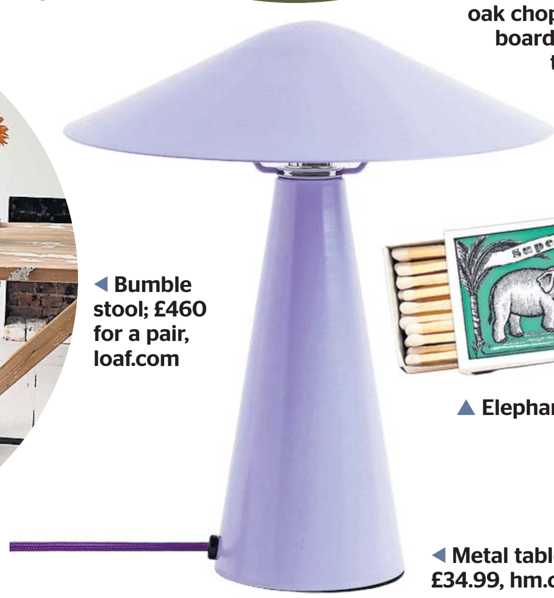
◀ Large check throw; £380, johnstonsofelgin.com



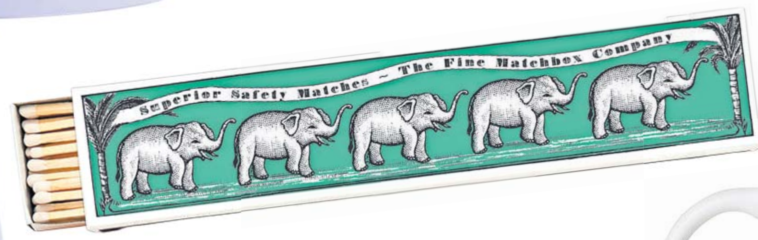
▲ Selwyn House small oak chopping board; £35, toa.st



◀ Bumble stool; £460 for a pair, loaf.com



◀ Metal table lamp; £34.99, hm.com



▲ Elephant extra-long matches; £10, rajtentclub.com

For more gifts go to thetimes.co.uk



▶ Pantone teacup; £27, iamfy.co



◀ Gold-tone cocktail shaker; £11, habitat.co.uk



▲ Cuero laundry basket; £215, conranshop.co.uk



▶ The Muse portable lamp; £275, conranshop.co.uk



▲ Roberts Revival Petite DAB radio; £99, johnlewis.com



▲ Multicoloured bowl; £9.99, Homesense (in-store only)



▶ Handmade stoneware butter dish; £34, rowenandwren.co.uk

▼ Diggins pudding bowls; £28 for a pair, loaf.com



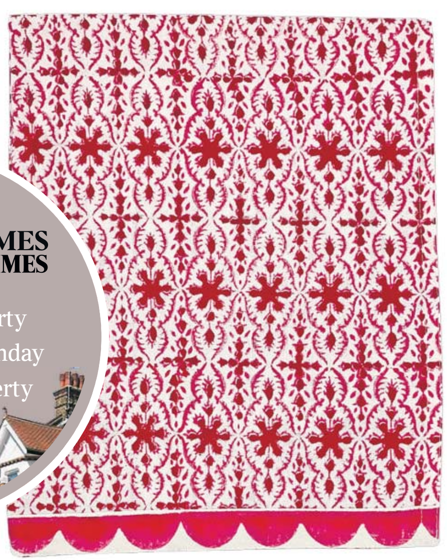
▼ Blue and grey throw; £42, nationaltrust.org.uk





▶ Striped ceramic mug by KateBrigdenMade; £23.20, etsy.com

▶ Afroze printed tea towel set; £18 for two, farohome.com



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Follow us on
@timesproperty
@thetimessunday
@TimesProperty



▲ Rattan pet hide; £126.75, coxandcox.co.uk

Savvy spender

Choose flashing LED bulbs to light your winter wonderland

Your weekly guide to living well for less
Share your tips
victoria.brzezinski@the-times.co.uk

Mince pies and tinsel at the ready. Christmas seems to have started earlier than ever this year. John Lewis's online festive shop launched in August and Christmas goods appeared in its stores on September 30. I'm astonished that some people are so organised.

Many people put up their Christmas tree in the first week of December, while others prefer to wait until 12 days before Christmas Day. Tradition dictates that the tree should be decorated at the beginning of Advent, which was November 27. In my family we tend to wait a little longer: the Polish tradition is to decorate the tree on the morning of December 24 before the most important festive family gathering, our wigilia dinner in the evening.

Not to take the shine off the festivities, but for this year's cost of living Christmas there may be fewer twinkling strands of fairy lights bedecking homes, inside and out. The general rule for a 6ft Christmas tree is a 15m string of lights (usually 200-300 bulbs). Go for a strand 5m longer if the tree is a foot higher, or 5m shorter for a foot shorter.

> **LED bulbs cost less than a penny a day to run a single 200-bulb or 400-bulb chain for six hours**

DIY Blackpool illuminations aside, if you have modern LED bulbs you may be surprised at how cheap your lights are to run. The consumer organisation Which? tested six sets of LED Christmas lights and found that it costs less than a penny a day to run a single 200-bulb or 400-bulb chain for six hours. So lighting up your tree with LEDs between the start of Advent and Twelfth Night will cost about 35p, based on a unit rate of 34p per kWh. The initial outlay for LED lights may be a little steeper than for traditional bulbs — a 200-bulb string of warm white LED lights costs £15 from Homebase; it's £24 for a 400-bulb string.

Purists may argue that the softer, warmer glow of traditional incandescent or halogen bulbs can't be replicated by the harsher, cooler tones of LEDs. It's true that the latter don't have quite the same nostalgic vibe. If you're bringing down your decades-old filament Christmas lights from the attic this year, bear in mind that these will cost you significantly more to run (LED versions use 80-90 per cent less energy).

The average 100-bulb string of incandescent filament mini-lights runs at 40W. Most people will use at least two strings for their tree, so 80W in total. You'd pay a little over 16p a day if you left your lights on for six hours daily — this means you'd pay roughly £6.30 to light a tree between the first day of Advent and Twelfth Night (39 days) this year.

To avoid leaving your lights on for too long, invest in a timer plug. Last week Which? said that the two most energy-hungry fairylight settings were "on" and "sequential". You can cut your energy use by 67 per cent by switching to the twinkling or flashing setting. So embrace the December decadence and deck your tree in its finest. I'm suddenly feeling ready for Noddy Holder's siren call to welcome the festive season.



Victoria Brzezinski



Helpless to Buy

First-time buyers are losing their homes because developers are struggling to meet deadlines for Help to Buy, says Melissa York



Charlie Cook, who works in fintech, was looking forward to moving out of his parents' house — he had spent three Covid lockdowns living there — and getting on to the property ladder. However, he faces a few more years working from his bedroom, as he does now, because, like hundreds of first-time buyers who used Help to Buy, his new home will not be built in time to meet a deadline set by Whitehall.

"It isn't a massive house," Cook, 28, says of his parents' place in Hornchurch, east London. "So this two-bedroom flat was going to be perfect for me to be able to have my own space and a home office as well."

The average house price in Hornchurch is £487,722, so Cook used the government's flagship housing scheme to buy a new-build flat in the area, in St George's Park, using an equity loan that is interest-free for five years.

The Help to Buy scheme closed to new applicants on October 31, with ministers telling housebuilders that they would have to finish building any homes sold using the equity loan by December 31, 2022. Last week Cook's developer, Bellway, told him that his flat would not be finished in time — now he faces losing the funding for his home.

"I'm devastated because I won't be able to afford a flat without Help to Buy," he says. "I get a 40 per cent loan as I'm in a London borough, but there's no chance I'll be able to make up the difference with a deposit or a bigger mortgage as I'm buying on my own."

Industry-wide construction delays caused by material and labour shortages mean developers across the country are struggling to finish homes on time.

HR worker Charlotte Goodwin, 26, and her partner face losing their flat in Ebbsfleet, Kent, as well as £2,000 in legal fees. She says: "We reserved our home back in July 2021 and we were meant to move in in the summer. I think Covid hasn't helped, and Brexit and things like that. But they only started to build it in July this year."

Buyers who miss the deadline will at least get their deposits back, but housebuilders are not obliged to return other moving costs such as legal fees, broker fees or money already paid for upgraded fixtures and fittings.

Louise (surname withheld at her request), 31, who bought a house in Selby, North Yorkshire, is set to lose £12,000 because the home she reserved eight months ago still doesn't have a roof.

"Me and my partner rent together at the moment and the landlord is increasing the rent so we won't even be able to stay in the apartment we're currently in," she says. "That's why we were so keen to get on the property ladder because we would rather be investing money in our future and our home, but now it's looking like that's going to be a pipe dream — all because of this deadline."

> "Construction delays caused by material and labour shortages mean developers are struggling to finish homes

Ministers set a "practical completion" deadline to give buyers three months to get building regulations signed off once a home was completed (the building industry claims this process typically takes ten days), so they could meet the legal completion deadline of March 31, 2023 — when the Help to Buy scheme officially ends. So far, 489 first-time buyers have signed a petition asking for the practical completion deadline to be extended so they can still use the taxpayer-backed loan.

Following former chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget on September 23, mortgage rates have doubled (although there are now signs they may ease), which has made the situation even more difficult for first-time buyers.

Joshua Janes, 28, faces losing his ground-floor flat in Ebbsfleet Cross,





VICKI COUCHMAN FOR THE TIMES

Charlie Cook, top, outside the unfinished St George's Park development in Hornchurch, above, where he was hoping to buy using the Help to Buy scheme

Need to know

The Help to Buy equity loan scheme was launched in April 2013. It was originally open to first-time buyers and second-steppers and was due to run until March 2021. However, it was amended — to be exclusively for first-time buyers purchasing new-builds (subject to regional price caps) — and extended until March 31, 2023 (with registrations closing on October 31, 2022). Under the scheme, the government loans homebuyers from 5 per cent up to 20 per cent of the cost of a newly built home (up to 40 per cent in London). No interest is charged on the loan for the first five years. The loan repayment is worked out as a percentage of the market value at the time — it can be more or less than originally borrowed depending on whether house prices have risen or fallen. The scheme has been criticised for inflating new-build prices but it has enabled 310,255 first-time buyers and 58,849 others to purchase homes. This year 13,419 homes were bought using the scheme by June 30, according to figures published in November.

Kent, because it is set to be completed in the new year. "If it fell through, I wouldn't have a chance to buy anywhere else," says Janes, who works for a software company. "The mortgage offer that I got in August would be cancelled all because of a matter of weeks."

> Housebuilders aren't obliged to return moving costs such as legal fees, broker fees or money for upgraded fixtures

Neil Jefferson, managing director of the Home Builders Federation (HBF), has written to Homes England, the body that runs the Help to Buy scheme, to ask for the practical completion deadline to be moved to the end of February, to give buyers one month to legally complete, as is the case with the government's First Homes scheme.

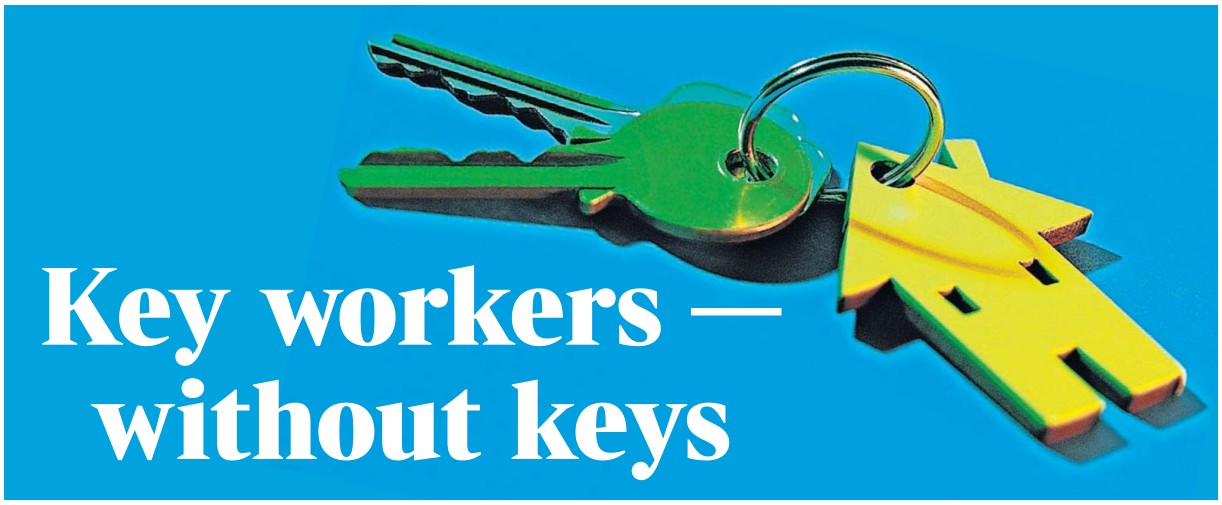
Stewart Baseley, executive chairman of HBF, says, "It would cause considerable anguish for homebuyers if they should miss out on their dream of homeownership as a result of an arbitrary administrative deadline and so we are urging Homes England to be flexible."

Officials did not enforce the practical completion deadline when the previous version of the scheme ended in 2021, but they are not willing to be so flexible this time with the scheme ending for good.

Homes England says the deadlines were set by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and that developers were always aware of the practical completion deadline. It is understood that some developers did not accept Help to Buy sales before the cut-off date in October because they did not think they would complete in time.

A DLUHC spokeswoman says: "Help to Buy has supported over 369,000 households into homes of their own and will continue to help many more until the scheme ends in March 2023. This is just one of many ways the government has made homeownership more achievable and affordable.

"We continue to help more first-time buyers on to the property ladder with our Shared Ownership and First Homes scheme, while our cut to stamp duty means homebuyers pay no duty on purchases worth less than £425,000."



Key workers — without keys

Airbnbs and high demand for properties mean that desperate NHS employees are struggling to find a home near hospitals

The panic attacks started shortly after Graham Milne received his eviction notice. "It was truly a horrible time," says Milne, 61, who works in the radiology department at Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. "I started looking for places to rent and immediately realised just how bad the situation was, particularly in Falmouth [where he lives], because there are so many Airbnbs."

Milne decided to put an appeal on Facebook, expecting to reach "maybe a hundred people". His post went viral — it was shared more than 70,000 times. "I was quite blown away by that. One of those who responded was a chap who owns a house in Falmouth and lives in Spain. We did a private deal. He's a really decent guy. He even lowered the rent just to help me out."

Milne says he was "extremely lucky", but he has lots of friends and colleagues who are struggling. "There's nothing available locally. Rents are going through the roof," he says. "The housing situation in Cornwall is dire."

There are thousands of NHS workers who are struggling to find a home near the hospitals where they work. Among the people who saw Milne's story on Facebook was Philip Norgan, who manages about 350 properties in Cornwall through his two companies, Homequest Lettings and Camel Lettings.

"I've been in this business for 33 years," Norgan says. "I couldn't understand why these NHS workers couldn't find anywhere to live. That's what got me thinking." He decided to find out why, and contacted a number of key workers, who told him the main problem is that they can't react as quickly as people in other professions.

"If we put a property on Rightmove we get an average of 70 inquiries within the first 48 hours," Norgan says. "It's one thing if you're working in an office and can check or make a phone call, but you can't do that if you're looking after someone who's just come off an ambulance in A&E."

India Foster, 24, a student nurse from Staffordshire, moved to Cornwall this month to work at the hospital in Truro. Foster, who works in the surgical post-operative care department, does



NHS worker Graham Milne

12-hour shifts, from 7am to 7.30pm. "By the time I get home from work it is too late to ring the estate agents, and by the next day [the properties] are usually gone," Foster says, adding that things are complicated by the fact that she's still technically a student (she will become a qualified nurse in March) and many landlords won't accept students.

Foster is renting a room through Airbnb while she looks for a permanent home. "I'm just trying to start my career. I've had a more difficult time than a lot of people because of the pandemic, and I feel like every time there's something wrong: either they don't want me because I'm a student or I can't take it because it's too expensive. I've explained my situation to all the landlords and it doesn't seem to make any difference."

Gwen Recentes, 31, from the Philippines, is a nurse in the trauma and orthopaedics department at the same hospital.



Student nurse India Foster

> Either landlords don't want me because I'm a student, or it's too expensive

She says it took her three months to find a place to stay. "There are a lot of international nurses coming in," she says. "It's like a race to secure a place, especially in Truro. There are not many homes to rent and a lot of people competing for those properties."

She joined forces with another Filipino nurse and found a two-bedroom flat in nearby Threemilestone, a 20-minute walk from the hospital. "It's easier to team up. We have 12-hour shifts and we're often unavailable to view properties. We only have the time during our breaks or during our day off. I wasn't able to view the flat but luckily my colleague was free to go and see it." However, lots of landlords won't accept flatshares and tend to prefer families or couples. "I love Cornwall, it's a beautiful place, but finding a home is so complicated."

To help its staff the hospital has launched a private Facebook group, RCHT [Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust] Home Finders. Estate agents and property companies can advertise properties to the group before they appear on portals such as Rightmove and Zoopla. "We send properties to them long before we put them on a portal, and it's working well," Norgan says. "We have found a home for 51 NHS workers. Such is the momentum that a lot of NHS staffers contact us directly. We have 124 key workers on our list."

Another avenue Norgan is trying to explore is letting out holiday caravans to key workers. He reckons 4,000 of them in Cornwall sit empty every year between October and March. "My wife and I have a caravan and we'd like to let it to an NHS worker for six months. However, the licences caravans have are holiday licences, not residential ones," he says, adding that the licences should be changed from October 1 to March 31. "The holiday licences simply say you cannot go from and to a workplace while staying in a caravan. What they [the councils] need to do is to put a clause in to say that for those six months, should anyone wish to use it, they can let it. It's not difficult. But that seems to be too much hard work for the council."

He adds that that is "not the solution", but "at least it's a bit of a sticking plaster". "The winter months are the worst months for the NHS," he says. "They're overwhelmed with Covid, flu and everything else. At the start of the year I met a junior doctor who was forced to do couchsurfing. I've met nurses who didn't have anywhere to live who were going from Airbnb to Airbnb. At least this would give them some breathing space, and it would relieve the burden on the hospitals to constantly find emergency accommodation for staff."

He says he has had agents from Cumbria, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Dorset and Wales contacting him to replicate the model. "This is a national crisis."

Emanuele Midolo

Around the world
Porto

Anchor down in this Portuguese city, which is cheaper and less touristy than the capital, Lisbon, and the Algarve







Top: the Douro in Porto. Above: a flat facing the river is on sale for €725,000, and, right, a villa is available for €650,000 (both in Massarelos and via Fine & Country Portugal)

Portugal's second city offers everything that Lisbon does, but on a smaller scale, according to Reuben and Bria Stone who have just bought a flat there. The British couple, who previously lived in Sydney, are renovating a three-bedroom property in the Bonfim district.

"We fell in love with Lisbon, nearly bought a place there, tried the Algarve — too touristy — and then came to Porto," says Reuben, 33, an app developer. "We thought it was just as charming but more intimate than Lisbon, and our money went a lot further. Bonfim is up and coming and only 20 minutes' walk from the Baixa [historic centre]. Until we sort out which visa we will get we are dividing our time between here and a rental flat in Brighton. We hope to relocate to Porto."



Since October there has been another visa option to consider in Portugal, the digital nomad visa for remote workers who can prove they have a minimum monthly income of €2,820 (£2,424) — four times the Portuguese minimum wage of €705. It offers more flexibility than alternative residency options, says Nuno Cunha Barnabe of the tax specialist law firm Abreu Advogados. "You can stay between four months and a year and if it's less than 183 days it will not impact your tax residency. The D7 visa [for those with a passive income of €760 a month] is popular but assumes you don't need to work and requires permanent, and tax, residence."

Although buying a home worth €500,000, through the golden visa scheme, will no longer get you residency in Porto, it hasn't stopped the flow of buyers keen to relocate there with the D7, says Andres Jennings of the estate agency Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. "We are seeing more lifestyle buyers than ever before, especially Americans, who are getting a 15 per cent currency discount right now, and also Britons." Last week a retired person from Chicago bought a studio apartment in the Baixa area for €210,000.

Prices have increased from pre-pandemic levels, with a property to renovate now €1,300 per sq m, rather than the €900 it was in 2019. Properties with a short-term rental licence will command a premium since the city put a six-month moratorium on new licences across central districts in October, predicts Jennings.

A furnished two-bedroom flat with a licence in a converted port warehouse in Gaia — across the Douro River from the Baixa — costs €550,000. To complete next month, a refashioned port warehouse is also home to the Rebello Luxury Apartment Hotel and Spa, offering "industrial chic" style apartments for one night or long-term stays. Managed by the Bomporto Hotel Group, it offers investors the chance to still get a golden visa through the private equity fund route — spending €500,500 in this case.

This year Porto tourism is expected to match the record levels of 2019, with the city's eclectic bars, innovative restaurants and Douro vineyard tours a big pull. Locals and expats usually eschew the tourist-clogged Baixa to live in Foz, the upmarket area along the Douro, Boavista (an upmarket neighbourhood north of the Baixa), or next-door Massarelos, according to Debora Mota, Porto regional manager at Fine & Country. "There's also Matosinhos, where Brazilians especially love living by the beach." Properties in these areas cost from €5,000-€6,500 a sq m.

It was the relative affordability of Massarelos, its diverse styles of architecture and proximity to the botanical gardens and the eateries of the Mercado Bom Sucesso that attracted John Bamford-Beattie and his wife, Carolanne, to rent an apartment there with their two young children.

In 2020 the architect moved from Bow, east London, to run the Porto arm of the interior design company Goddard Littlefair, and is now looking for a house to buy and renovate. "There's a long tradition of furniture-making in Porto and plenty of design inspiration," says the 36-year-old of their choice of Porto over Lisbon. "The city is full of creative people and because of its manageable size you get to know a lot of them. The expat community is growing fast."

With his family in Porto since 1882, Rupert Symington of the Symington Family Estates port producers has seen this and also the city evolving. "The essential character of the old town has been lost with tourists outnumbering the locals," says the company chief executive, who lives in Foz. "But the lower cost of living and broadband investment has meant there is a big start-up ecosystem here and in Braga [45 minutes north of Porto]. There's much to attract digital nomads."

Liz Rowlinson

i Need to know

- Porto was awarded the World's Best City Destination 2022 at the World Travel Awards.
- If you wish to stay more than 90 days in any 180 without working, the D7 visa requires proof of income.
- Expect to pay 8 per cent purchase costs on a resale property.

Location lowdown Bermondsey, London SE1

Where? A neighbourhood just south of the Thames, roughly between London Bridge, Canada Water and down to the Old Kent Road.

Why? Bermondsey tells the story of the capital in miniature. There are ancient churches and old leather factories, the traces of postwar rebuilding, deindustrialisation, dereliction and gentrification. Regeneration has happened in earnest over the past decade or so. This year Lewisham council approved proposals for the New Bermondsey scheme, which will transform a 30-acre industrial area. This will involve building 3,500 homes (35 per cent of which will be affordable), putting in walking and cycling routes and sports facilities and enabling the creation of the proposed Surrey Canal Overground station, which will improve connections to central London and Canary Wharf.

What's on the high street? It may be famous for its brewery bars but Bermondsey offers some of the best food in the capital. Trivet has a Michelin star and more than 350 wines, while Bermondsey Street has restaurants from the acclaimed chefs José Pizarro and Angela Hartnett. Hipsters hang out at Maltby Street



Market, *above*, or Spa Terminus, a food production hub in a series of restored railway arches where you can pick up Monmouth coffee and organic bread.

There's nourishment for the mind too, with the art galleries White Cube and Eames Fine Art, the Fashion and Textile Museum and the indie cinema Kino Bermondsey. Bermondsey Square hosts an antiques market every Friday and free jazz concerts.

Is it well connected? Bermondsey Underground station is on the Jubilee line, so passengers can reach Canary Wharf or Waterloo in less than five minutes and Bond Street in ten minutes. Trains from South Bermondsey station go to London Bridge (five minutes) and East Croydon.

What about green space? Bermondsey Spa Gardens has a children's play area and a running track, while the 63-acre Southwark Park has a boating lake, sports facilities and a café. "Even though the City is within walking distance, Bermondsey doesn't feel overly crowded and has nice quiet backstreets," says James Hyman, head of residential at estate agency Cluttons.

Education options? There are excellent state primaries, with four entries in The Sunday Times Parent Power guide to the country's highest-achieving schools. St Michael's RC College also makes the guide.

What does it cost to buy? Bermondsey's central location makes it a hit with buyers and renters who work in well-paid jobs, particularly those in the financial and insurance sectors, according to Neil Bowron, director at JLL estate agency. The area is also popular with downsizers and all this demand means property prices are high. The vast majority of homes are converted flats or new-build apartments; expect to pay up to £500,000 for a one-bedroom property, while two-bedroom homes cost from £700,000. For rentals, one-bedroom flats go for a minimum of £400 a week; two-bedroom places from £600.

Alexandra Goss


DRINK
INVEST
RESPONSIBLY.
WHISKY Partners
Diversify your portfolio and beat inflation.
WHY INVEST?
• Capital Gains Exempt
• Easy to manage online app
• Dedicated portfolio manager
• Bespoke casks to suit all budgets
• Fully insured
FREE CASK INVESTMENT GUIDE
whiskypartners.com

IN A WORLD OF GARDEN ROOMS...

ONLY ONE IS TRULY BUILT TO BE LIVED IN

"Undoubtedly the best that money can buy."
- Lord Alan Sugar (customer)

At Crown Pavilions, our garden rooms are engineered to the same exacting specification as your home, which means that whatever you use it for - from an extra living room or a luxury home office to a sumptuous entertaining space - you can enjoy it in complete comfort, all year round, year upon year.

We have been building the world's most desirable, residential-grade garden rooms for nearly two decades. Our delighted clients include royalty, celebrities, even a local baker requiring a garden workshop. Every client approaches us for the same reasons: because they've heard that we are "the best money can buy" with a bespoke, five-star service to match.

Every element is painstakingly selected for quality and longevity. We insist on the finest craftsmanship: traditional timber building methods, rather than cheaper SIPS (structural insulated panels), engineered oak flooring rather than laminates and premium residential-grade insulation. The result is an attention to detail that's about as far removed from mass production as you can get, reflected in TRADA certification, the highest marque in our industry.

Request a brochure and start your journey with Crown Pavilions today.

CROWN PAVILIONS™

The marque of excellence



Clarence Garden Room with black slate finish



CROWN PAVILIONS™

The world's finest garden rooms

Trustpilot ★★★★★

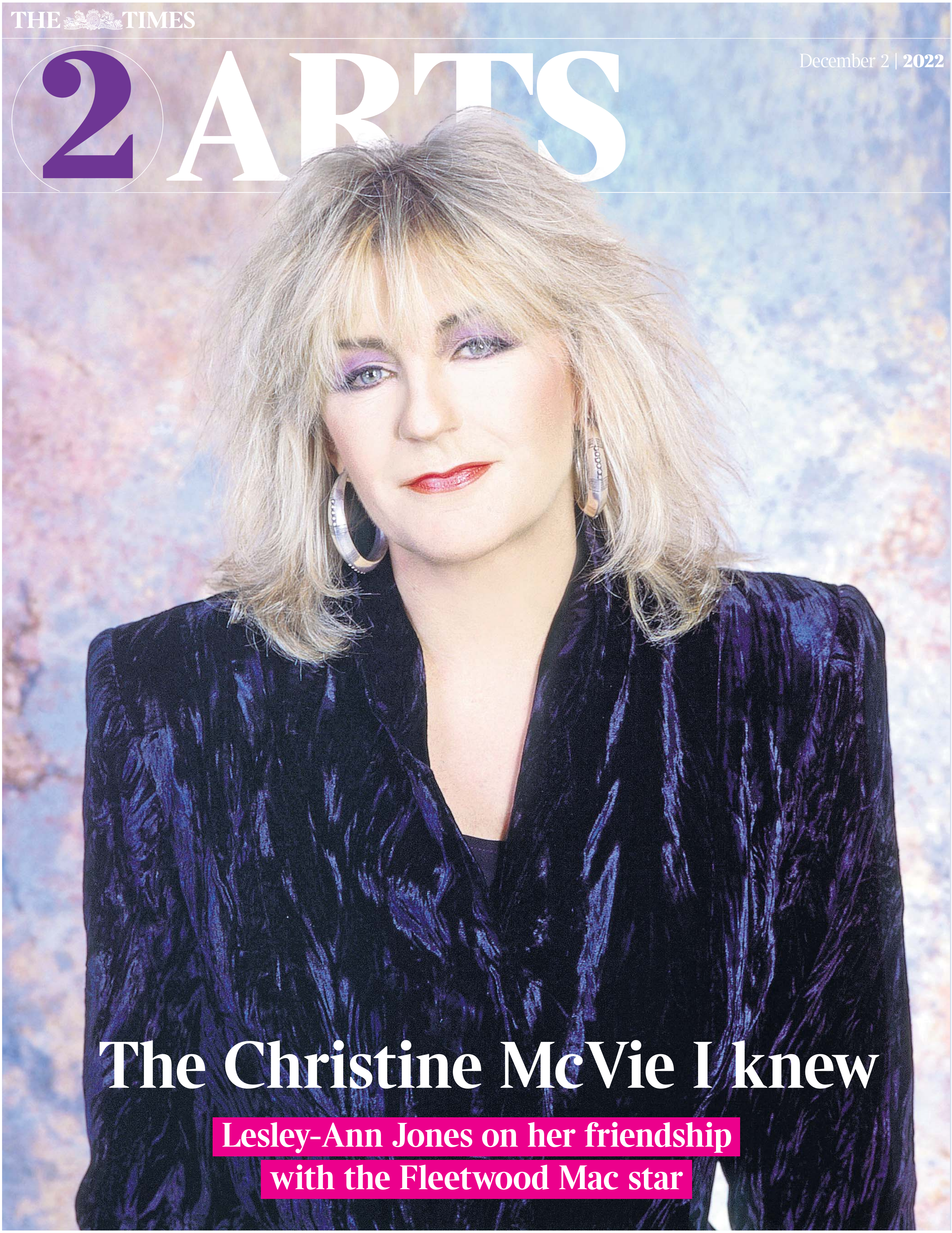
01491-612-820 CROWNPAVILIONS.COM

SUSTAINABLY SOURCED CERTIFIED TIMBER

THE TIMES

2 ARTS

December 2 | 2022



The Christine McVie I knew

Lesley-Ann Jones on her friendship with the Fleetwood Mac star

times2

Caitlin Moran

Celebrity Watch



10



UP
Winter Wonderland

Good morning, sweet Times readers! And let us open with some Festive Consumer Affairs, courtesy of The Sun, which visited London's Winter Wonderland event and found it wanting. Popping on its *Watchdog* hat, The Sun found some price points for celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A portion of fish and chips — for Jesus was a fisherman — came in at a "punchy" £14; while the less Jesus-y hot dogs were £10.50.

Causing the most kerfuffle, however, was the "potato on a stick", which retailed at £7.

While many have boggled at the mark-up involved in "a potato" and "a stick", I personally like how medieval this all is. Seven quid for a spud transforms the humble tuber, repositioning it once more as a luxury, exotic item, recently arrived from the Americas, and to be considered as an outré talking point rather than a bog-standard carb. Can you really put a price on how much this ludicrously expensive potato will bond whole families together — united in disbelief and bitching? That's the true spirit of Christmas 2022, right there.

9



DOWN
Donald Trump

Last week, details of the wedding of Tiffany Trump, Donald Trump's youngest daughter, were released.

The cake, obviously, was huge: 7ft tall. The speeches were, obviously, slightly menacing — "You'd better take care of her!" the father of the bride said to his new son-in-law, Michael Boulos, who presumably knew Trump's reaction to the January 6 chants of "Hang Mike Pence!" was "It's just common sense."

But the music? The music was… unexpected. For the newlywed couple's first dance was *Dancing in the Moonlight* by the British Nineties indie band Toploader, a song that wants to sell you a landscape of young, slightly gormless men wearing bucket hats and holding a beer in each hand as they shout "Oi, oi!" at each other.

Quite how this light-hearted Wetherspoons anthem came to touch the hearts of the Trumps remains a mystery. Did they hear… a servant play it? Do they have a cultural concierge, who makes them a playlist called something like "Musical opiates of the lumpen quotidian?" It's fascinating.

8



DOWN
Elon Musk

Tweet of the week was a superlative drive-by on "crypto influencer" Matt Wallace, who on Monday insanely boasted: "Elon Musk is going to put Apple out of business!"

"Did he buy it?" was the reply.

@PleaseBeGneiss, whoever you are: bravo.

7



UP
Door curtains

Usually, at this time of year, papers are full of "Christmas fashion spreads".

Well, this year "fashion" has different priorities: "Heavy curtains for front doors are making a comeback as they block draughts and reduce the need to switch the heating on," MailOnline declared. Yes, 50 years after Sister Maria turned the Von Trapp curtains into seven outfits, the 21st-century Sister Maria would take all the kids' clothes and turn them back into a thermal drape — as John Lewis has noted a 50 per cent rise in the sales of door curtains. Others noted that "café curtains" are back: "half-length sheer curtains… to protect valuables from the peering eyes of burglars".

Our houses have been dressing "too slutty", window-wise, and need to be "more modest".

6



UP
WAGs

A few weeks ago I was fretting about the prospect of one of England's greatest cultural innovations — the WAGs — during their stay in Qatar for the World Cup. With stringent guidelines on outfits, drinking and displays of public affection, it seemed the free-wheeling wives and girlfriends of the England team were being regulated out of existence. For what is a WAG if not double-fisting cocktails in a denim miniskirt and giving it some to *Man! I Feel Like a Woman!* on the karaoke?

Well, fret not! A report in Heat suggests that the WAGs have found a way around, basically, Qatar: by not being in Qatar. Or, as Heat put it, "ALL ABOARD THE WAG BOAT". A £1 billion cruise ship, docked in the waters off Qatar, is where the WAGs are reportedly staying. The ship has seven pools, an 11-storey-high water slide "and even a snow room, with ice walls and floors". It also has 20 bars, stocked with £400 bottles of Armand de Brignac champagne — and it's OK for the WAGs to walk around in their bikinis swigging them because "the boat is in international waters".

Perhaps not quite what Rupert Brooke had in mind when he wrote "there's some corner of a foreign field/ That is for ever England" — but also, let's face it, an idea he would have far preferred over what he was actually describing.



5



DOWN
Katie Price

Remaining, for a while, with the concept of "the reality behind the glamour", Katie Price — the troubled model and tabloid staple — has suffered yet another unfortunate life event at her mansion in Sussex. Last week it was reported that Price's pomeranian dog, Sharon, had "escaped" from the house — only to be run over by a car on the A24.

Although this is, obviously, deeply upsetting, this does now mark Price's sixth pet to have met a premature death in the past five years. In 2017 one of Price's horses was struck by a vehicle outside her house, and just a year later a delivery driver ran over her alsatian, Queenie. As the Mirror then solemnly recapped: "Her pet chameleon Marvin 'died of a broken heart' when her children went to live with her ex-husband, Peter Andre; swiftly followed by another Alsatian, Sparkle, who was also struck by a car." Just months later, Price's bulldog Rolo suffocated when "the family's nanny sat on it". Although, notably, there are various different claims as to how the unfortunate Rolo died: The Sun had it that the puppy "died in the electric chair". Not because he was the Rosenbergs — Price has a reclining electric chair and the dog allegedly became tangled in the mechanism. Which is, arguably, worse than being the Rosenbergs. At least they got advance warning, and a last meal.

In the wake of Sharon's death it does seem as if Price has a blind spot when it comes to "keeping animals alive". Four dogs, a horse and a chameleon is quite the roll call: Price is basically running a Death Zoo, just off the A24.

4



UP
Kevin McCloud

Celebrity Marriage News, and it's been an exciting month for Kevin McCloud, presenter of the "middle-class couples try to convert a Victorian water tower into a three-bed Scandi live/workspace — with disastrous results" Channel 4 show *Grand Designs*. Three years after the end of his previous marriage, he has tied the knot again — this time with businesswoman Jenny Jones.

Although the McClouds kept the ceremony private, I do hope Kevin stuck to his own traditions viz embarking on an ambitious plan: ie halfway through the ceremony — roughly where the first ad break would be on *Grand Designs* — turning to the congregation and saying, "Kevin and Jenny planned a wedding full of love, superlative catering and its own sense of style. But at this halfway point, with someone's baby crying incessantly at the back of the church and bad weather holding up the gospel choir who were scheduled to sing *Our House* by Madness but in a spiritual way, have they bitten off more than they can chew?"

3



DOWN
Drake

To Instagram, where DJ Khaled has been posting about the birthday present he got from Drake: four luxury toilets.

The TOTO toilets have UV lights, an air deodoriser, heated seats, a bidet function and a "Tornado" flush system. "LOVE BROTHER!" Khaled posted, to Drake. "Thank you for my gift!"

Four luxury toilets from Drake, huh? I guess they are… Bot Time Bling. Thank you. Thank you for listening to my joke.

2

UP
Gary Lineker's son



From quite big international news to its very opposite. For, in this week's MailOnline, a story of such thunderous nothingness has appeared that, in many ways, I found it profoundly uplifting.

"Gary Lineker's son Harry announces plans to extend his £1 million family home in sought-after west London suburb," the headline ran, before diving into the juicy details. "Harry Lineker applied for rear extension and loft conversion to his London home. Officials will decide whether to rule on the proposed development next month."

In other words, the son of someone famous is getting his loft done.

That this is considered "news" makes me almost tearful — it's like a glimpse back into older, more peaceful, more boring times. Like when *Big Brother*'s "Nasty Nick" was genuinely considered to be the most malign person in Britain or when Ed Miliband eating a sandwich was headline news. I hope, in the coming weeks, we have further stories about eg Mr Motivator's cousin getting double glazing or Gary Neville's wife's brother installing a water meter. It might not be news, but it's comforting.

1

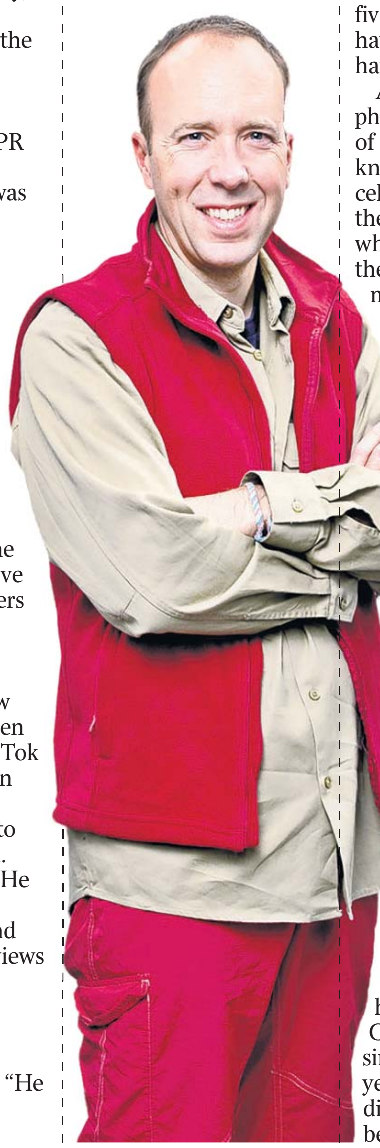
UP
Matt Hancock

Last week, you may remember I had to deliver some unexpected and somewhat startling news: that Matt Hancock, former health secretary and lockdown love rat, was/is a genius.

I'm sure my surprise at writing it was equal to your surprise at reading it; and I also suspect we all had to admit, in the end, ruefully — maybe even while staring out of a window, sighing heavily — that it was, simply, true. When, after a week on *I'm a Celebrity*, Hancock was leading in the polls to win the whole show, what initially appeared to be a reputationally suicidal move was revealed to be, in fact, stone-cold PR genius. An ITV1 game show had laundered him of his sins and he was now being swiftly reinvented as bankable showbiz oddity — in the manner of Michael Portillo, Ann Widdecombe or Ed Balls. Free to lucratively potter around Europe on trains in brightly coloured trousers and/or enter *Strictly*, depending on his feelings towards Lycra.

Or was he? For what appeared to be a triumph last week is already, in the harsh light of the post-*I'm a Celeb* world, looking… hotly contested. To be brisk, no one quite knows what Hancock's relative victory actually means. His numbers are being studied, his methods are being debated, their long-term effectiveness being doubted. The Guardian ran a long report on how "managed" Hancock's turn had been — a very professional-looking TikTok account had framed Hancock as an adorable, borderline Mr Bean character, and urged young users to "use all their votes" to keep him in. This aspect, certainly, worked — "He has strong meme energy," was my teenage daughter's assessment. And you can't argue with 400 million views for "Matt's funny dance".

However, whether or not Gen Z enjoy watching you munch on a testicle is very different from "the entire rest of your life and career". "He just made good TV," was the dismissive conclusion of David Yelland, former Sun editor, who added that in the outside world, people "have a lower opinion of him than when he started this strategy".



And indeed, in the same way psephologists comb over opinion polls and by-election swings, there are now thousands of puzzled journalists/PRs/voters trying to read the runes in the entrails of Hancock's jungle tenure. Entrails which, just six short days ago, would have been poured on to Hancock's head as he sat in a tank of eels. After all, as someone pointed out on Twitter: "If he stayed in until he made the last three, that means people were voting for him to stay in the jungle to be stung by scorpions — rather than going back to the nice five-star hotel. They actually might have been voting for him because they hated him."

And this opens up profound philosophical questions on the nature of the *I'm a Celebrity* vote. Until we know why people vote for various celebrities, every voting round save the last one — on the day of the finale, when the public finally votes for who they actually want to win — is meaningless. In that vote, by the way, Hancock came last — polling just 21 per cent when in the last three, compared with the eventual winner, former Lioness Jill Scott, on 47 per cent. Not looking quite so genius now.

And so, even as Hancock flies back to his constituency, we still don't know what his jungle adventure has achieved. Was it a brilliant, left-field and successful PR heist that has shown us "what politicians are really like" and that now gives Hancock a populist platform to reinvent his career in Westminster? Or was it a massive disaster that will see him both ousted at the next general election and in line for nothing more spectacular than a stint as eg "Kangaroo" on *The Masked Singer* in 2024? Either way, it's fascinating. Are we a country that forgives politicians their sins if they humiliate themselves for £400k? Or would we prefer it if they, say, simply went off and worked for 40 years for a charity, as Jack Profumo did, instead? The next few weeks will be interesting.

The hot list
Your guide to the weekend

Film



White Noise
This witty, darkly amusing comedy satire is perhaps the most emotionally accurate, disturbing "pandemic" movie yet, though it's not actually about the pandemic. Instead, it is a vastly expensive arthouse epic that features *Star Wars* brooder Adam Driver and a killer cloud of toxic gas. *See review, page 7. In cinemas*

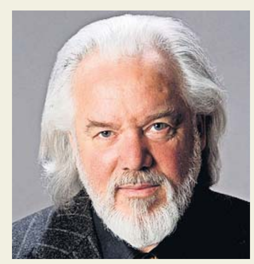
Pop



Stereolab
The band created a new style that they named Space Age Bachelor Pad Music; stylish pan-European electronic pop realised in classics like *French Disko* and *Ping Pong*. Since reuniting in 2019 they have been sounding better than ever. *Earth, N16 (stereolab.co.uk), tonight, tomorrow*

Classical

Wagner in the Highlands
The Mahler Players head into the Scottish Highlands for two dates with a new chamber version of Act II from Wagner's *Tristan* (along with the opera's Prelude and



Liebestod). A superb British cast includes the soprano Lee Bisset, tenor Peter Wedd and veteran bass John Tomlinson, *left*. *Inverness Cathedral, tomorrow; Strathpeffer Pavilion, Sunday (mahlerplayers.co.uk)*

Visual art

Kamala Ibrahim Ishag: States of Oneness
A first London solo show for the 83-year-old Sudanese artist features oil paintings, works on paper and painted calabashes, and celebrates women-only Zar ceremonies. *Serpentine Gallery, W2 (serpentine galleries.org), today, tomorrow, Sunday*



Comedy

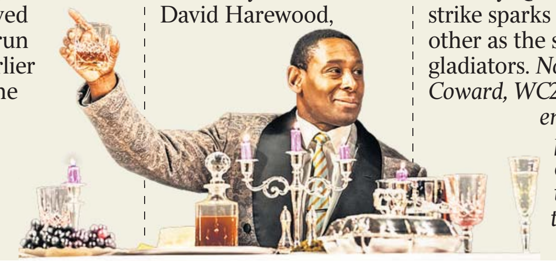
Peter Kay
"One of Bolton's funniest comedians is finally back!" says Kay's blurb, somehow underplaying things even while using an exclamation mark. After a decade away



from touring, Kay tonight debuts a show that will pop in and out of arenas till 2025. *AO Arena, Manchester (ticketmaster.co.uk), tonight, tomorrow (returns only)*

Theatre

Best of Enemies
Embarking on a well-deserved West End run after its earlier outing at the Young Vic, James Graham's play about Sixties TV pundit wars is absolutely unmissable. David Harewood,



below left, and Zachary Quinto strike sparks off each other as the studio gladiators. *Noël Coward, WC2 (bestofenemies play.com), tonight, tomorrow*

cover story

She said: ‘Being in the same band as your partner kills a relationship’

The Fleetwood Mac star Christine McVie confided in her friend Lesley-Ann Jones about men, drink, drugs — and how bored she had become in the countryside



She was a rock’n’roll legend, part of the era-defining line-up whose quintessential offering, *Rumours*, was the album we carried to house parties in supermarket shopping bags. It chafed against our local hero David Bowie’s *Low*, Billy Joel’s *The Stranger*, Queen’s *News of the World* (the one with *We Are the Champions*) and Rod Stewart’s *Foot Loose & Fancy Free*.

Not yet sophisticated enough for Genesis, Yes and Emerson, Lake & Palmer, we hid behind Cat Stevens and Elton John. Carole King’s 1971 offering *Tapestry* was over before we got to it (although we’d get back to it). More or less all the music we young ’uns listened to in those days was male.

Rock’n’roll, in 1977, was holding its own against the burgeoning swell of disco. Punk was baring its fangs to greet the dawn.

Then *Rumours* — and revelations to make you weep. Not only because the band were an Anglo-American explosion of melody, harmony and in-your-face glamour, with five equally flamboyant stars of both sexes and an orgy of unforgettable songs. Not only for McVie’s rich, polished contralto and Stevie Nicks’s Orson-Welles-on-helium warble, but also because this tantalising LP with its exquisite dainty fairy (Nicks) meets sex-starved laird (Fleetwood) cover image was the ultimate vicarious thrill.

We couldn’t have known, those first times we heard it, that this collection of hymns to romantic disintegration and disillusion was so personal to the people in question. Interest in intimate ins and outs came later. For now, we were content with our virginal voyeuristic experience of what an actual relationship must be like.

I’d had a few of those by the time McVie and I started crossing paths (we first met in 1984 at a new year party in Los Angeles). I had relocated there during the mid-1980s for a British newspaper. She was a fixture of the rich rock scene. By then in her forties to my trembling, tenderfoot twenties, she cut a cool, mildly fierce figure in her predominantly masculine attire.



Christine McVie with Lesley-Ann Jones in London in 2014. Right: Fleetwood Mac — Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham, Christine McVie, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie — in 1982. Far right, from top: Christine McVie recording in 1969; performing in Tacoma, Washington, in 2014

> **‘All that excess, all that having everything drains you. It numbs you,’ she told me**

McVie, whose maiden name was Christine Perfect, had legs that, as my grandmother used to say, went right up to her bum. Endless jeans. Hip-length jackets. A roughly hewn face framed by cut-and-go hair with a prominent nose and small, squinty eyes. Slightly wonky teeth, which she would never in a million years have paid to fix.

In those gentler pre-publicist, pre-management, pre-agent times that are barely imaginable today, journalists and artists mingled freely. Interviews were often what the Americans termed “one-on-one”. More often than not, it would be, “Come up to the house for a swim and some supper.” Perhaps the press junket had not yet been invented. If it had, I was clearly NFI.

Fleetwood Mac’s *Tusk*, *Mirage* and *Tango in the Night* albums, the last their biggest success since *Rumours* ten years earlier, had been and gone. Christine had survived a tempestuous relationship with the Beach Boy Dennis Wilson, who died two years after their split. In 1986, she had married the Portuguese singer-songwriter Eddy Quintela, with whom she had written *Little Lies*. (They divorced in 2003; he died 17 years later.) She was “done with men”, she said. When a woman says this, it’s best not to believe her. I had a hunch that Chris meant it, and so it proved.

We bonded, as far as a mere scribe can ever bond with an international superstar creative, over my single, disturbing encounter with Wilson, during which a close friend and I had dinner with him in December 1983 and he wept for Chris throughout.

She made clear that the love of one’s life wields no automatic right for one to remain welded to them and she left. They fell out spectacularly. Off his head on liquor and narcotics, a week after my dinner with him, he dropped off a yacht into the cold, cold briny and drowned.

I admired Chris for maintaining her Englishness at a time when it was de rigueur to look and sound American. “What else would I be?” she said. “When you’re born in the Lake District, you never quite eradicate the granite. The Midlands [where she grew up] were never really me. London calling.”

Through her bandmates in Chicken Shack, she met and hung with Peter Green’s Fleetwood Mac. It was Green for whom she had the hots. The bass player John McVie was engaged to someone else at the time. He broke that off to propose to Chris. She loved him, she said.

“But being in the same band as your partner kills a relationship,” she told me. “Being in a different band from your partner would kill it just as surely. Because the road takes you in different directions, and the temptations of the road are too great. Which is worse? I couldn’t say. All I know is that John and I were in each other’s faces 24/7. In the end, you get to a point when you want to kill them. That’s if they don’t try to kill you first.”

We crossed paths thereafter at many a gathering. She was always warm. Dismissive of gossip and rumour — ironically — her favourite subject was music and musicians. She would never discuss her songs, either works in progress or recorded and released hits. Those were conversations that she had with herself in her head, she said. Although never starstruck, which she would not have allowed, I was always impressed by her.

Shortly before she quit California and moved home to England, we met for dinner one night at the Ivy, a flowery, bohemian place on North Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles. She was sick of the race, she said.

“Rock stars age in dog years in reverse,” she said cryptically. “We are much older than our chronological ages. We are weary and worn. Our skin is thin. We have seen too much. Lived too much. Drugged and drunk too much.

“All that excess, all that having everything you could want, money no object, drains you. It numbs you. It ceases to be exciting after a while. All you want is your mother’s kitchen with a scrubbed table, old-fashioned crockery and a stool to put your feet up. Scratchy toilet paper, even. The road, my love, is never a luxury. It is a drudge.”

She developed a fear of flying, the perfect excuse to get off that road and settle down. In 2000 at her quaint, grade II listed Tudor home, the Quaives, near Canterbury in Kent — with its sweeping paddocks, croquet lawn, lavender beds and rambling outhouses, one of which she converted into a recording studio to work on her solo songs — we sat at either end of an eight-seat oak dining table and had a pass-the-marmalade moment.

I was there to discuss a book idea. She had shown initial interest, hence the invitation, but by the time I got there she had clearly gone off it. “Nothing to see here,” she said. Really? “You heard.”

I had anticipated seeing more of her in England, where we both now lived. But I was busy with work and children. She was immersed in her dogs and her songs. The years evaporated. We ran into each other after a lengthy gap, at an awards ceremony and lunch at the Savoy — it was 2014, I think. By now peering into her seventies, Christine still towered. She looked proud and stylish, no little old lady in there. We

COVER: AARON RAPOPORT/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES. BELOW: EBET ROBERTS/GETTY IMAGES; NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPER LTD; SUZI PRATT/FILM MAGIC/GETTY IMAGES







Christine McVie's greatest hits By Ed Potton

I'd Rather Go Blind 1969
Before she joined Fleetwood Mac, McVie was a member of the British blues band Chicken Shack, performing under her maiden name, Christine Perfect. They had their biggest UK hit with a cover of a song written for Etta James, on which McVie's vocals are as wistful and understated as her Hammond.

Say You Love Me 1975
A highlight of Fleetwood Mac's self-titled tenth album, its jaunty piano belying the vulnerable lyrics ("If you use me again, it'll be the end of me"). Was it a sign that all was not well in her marriage to John McVie? They separated the next year.

Over My Head 1975
"Your mood is like a circus wheel/ You're changing all the time," McVie sings in a tune about her unpredictable bandmate, Lindsey Buckingham. Fleetwood Mac's first hit in America for six years, it was an example of her gift for mixing glorious melodies with pointed lyrics.

Don't Stop 1977
A song about putting her split from John McVie behind her, whose forward-thinking positivity was harnessed by Bill Clinton on the campaign trail. The Comeback Kid had an anthem, written and sung by another survivor in McVie. When she rejoined the band in 2013 this was the showstopper.

You Make Loving Fun 1977
Another one inspired by her divorce, its purring electric piano and liberated vocals exuding the energy of a woman who, to put it bluntly, is having loads of great sex with someone new. That person was Fleetwood Mac's lighting director, Curry Grant, which must have stung as John McVie laid down his bassline.

Songbird 1977
McVie wrote her most famous and exquisite ballad in just half an hour: "I woke up in the middle of the night and the song was there in my brain, chords, lyrics, melody." With no means of recording it and scared of forgetting it, she stayed awake for the rest of the night. The song became a favourite live finale.

Over and Over 1979
"Could you ever need me? And would you know how?" McVie asks on the languid opening track to Fleetwood Mac's *Tusk*. A conventional but gorgeously moving start to an album that is often seen as the band's most experimental.

Little Lies 1987
Co-written with Eddy Quintela, her husband at the time, this sleekly catchy blend of lush synths and windswept vocals was a Top 5 hit on both sides of the Atlantic. It was one of a pair of mega-pop smashes by McVie on the *Tango in the Night* album…

Everywhere 1987
… the other being *Everywhere.* Built around a chorus of loved-up rapture, it's a shimmering piece of fairytale escapism that has enjoyed a second life as a singalong DJ favourite, beloved of crowds at festivals and Balearic boat parties.

Game of Pretend 2017
"Did I want too much, baby? Did I cause too much pain?" McVie wonders on a solo piano ballad from *Lindsey Buckingham Christine McVie*, the album she made with her former bandmate that turned out to be her last.

Search for The Times on Spotify to listen to these tracks on our Christine McVie playlist

chewed cud. She was bored, she said.

Living out in the sticks? "That."

She confided that she was drinking heavily again. She was swallowing codeine like Smarties for back pain. She fell down the stairs. There was no one to hear her scream. That was when she decided to flog the old gaff and "get her arse back to London", to be among her people. By which she meant the freaks, the misfits and the dreamers. The conjurors of the magic we call music. The like-minded folk who, like her, experienced the tickle of lyrics at the back of her throat, the prickle under the skin on her arms when she landed on the right notes to accompany them.

"You talk about this stuff with non-musicians and there's always a sense that they think you're slightly bonkers," she said. "There's a language that musicians speak. Across the genres, I mean. We get it. Our job is to deliver our musical take on life to the fans who absorb and in many cases live their lives by it.

"So we have to try to understand them. We have to dissect emotions, strip them down, make them digestible. This is hard. Emotions are hard. They are no easier for the likes of us because we can write about them.

Where does this magic come from? You're asking the wrong person. Though if you ever come across someone who can explain it to you in a way that makes sense, give me a call."

It was the last time I saw her. Rest in peace, Miss Perfect. You were.

***Tumbling Dice* by Lesley-Ann Jones is available to order on Amazon**

cover story

She helped to create the soundtrack to my youth

Rumours changed my life, says Kate Spicer

It says something about the timeless quality of Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* that it took me about 20 years to work out that it came out in 1977 and not 1987, the year I took my A-levels.

I must have come to *Rumours* via their later album *Tango in the Night*. Visiting my dad in the Middle East, where you could buy fake cassettes made in Taiwan, I bought *Rumours* without all the usual sleeve notes, absent from the iffy photocopied insert.

Once I had *Rumours* in my hands, that was it — it was all I played on the red cassette deck that sat on my desk as my study mate Cordelia and I revised till late and drank nasty instant coffee because it made us feel very grown-up. I played one side, opened the cassette tray, clatter clatter, and turned it over to play the other, clatter clatter, over and over.

Of course, I was clueless as to how precious it was on this exquisite cliff edge of childhood. I was in the midst of my first love, I had just lost the Big V. I'd sit on the roof of my boarding house with the other naughty girls, smoking, singing and behaving like a child until about 2am when I'd climb out of the window, shimmy down the fire escape and run like an assassin to my boyfriend's boarding house to do grown-up things.



***Rumours* is an enduring, extraordinary classic that has sold about 45 million copies to date and has spent ten years in the charts over the past four decades. I bought it on CD when the tape wore out.**

In 2007 it blew up in my life again. I wish I could tell you how or why it went from background music into the foreground again, but it was inside me. I was doing a lot of big sporting challenges to try to keep myself out of trouble: Marathon des Sables, endurance swims, triathlons. By now *Rumours* was downloaded onto an iPod, pushing me up hills.

Now, it is four decades old, but it still plugs me back into that childhood innocence. Thank you, Christine McVie, you helped to write one of the greatest albums ever, one that has given me decades of joy.

Richard Morrison the arts column

We can only save the arts if we stop sneering at big business

Let's hear it for Leonard Blavatnik — again. The Odesa-born British-American billionaire, 65, has just donated £10 million towards the National Portrait Gallery's renovation. That's his second big donation to a London arts institution this year. Another multimillion-pound gift will enable the Imperial War Museum to open a gallery of war photography, film and art.

And prior to that? Beneficiaries of Blavatnik's philanthropy in the capital now include the Courtauld Gallery (£10 million), Tate Modern (£50 million) and the V&A (£5 million). He also bought the Theatre Royal Haymarket for a reputed £45 million.

Outside London there's also the small matter of his £75 million donation to Oxford University and the £7.7 million he chipped in this year to stop the Honresfield Library of literary manuscripts being sold abroad. And outside the cultural sector he has given millions to scientific, medical and humanitarian projects in the United States, Israel and UK — most recently supporting Ukrainian families displaced by the war.

"Yes, but it's just loose change to him," a friend says when I list these good deeds. A churlish remark, but not untrue. Blavatnik's company, Access Industries, owns most of the giant Warner Music Group, and his personal wealth is estimated at a tolerable £20 billion in The Sunday Times Rich List, though *Forbes* magazine says it's nearly £30 billion. Either way, he is Britain's richest individual. So far, according to his foundation's website, he has donated about £1 billion of that. Impressive, but not jaw-dropping. Bill and Melinda Gates have given away $60 billion.

Context, however, is everything. First, Blavatnik gives many of his donations to British organisations. Second, he clearly has an interest in culture. And third, we really need him. The sad fact is that, compared with America, Britain has very few mega-rich individuals giving away any money at all.

To make matters more desperate, many of our most generous arts philanthropists belong to a generation that is, as they say, not getting any younger. The deaths this year of John Sainsbury, who made huge, game-changing gifts to the National Gallery and the Royal Opera House, and (this month) Evelyn de Rothschild, reminded us of that. As with so many of that generation of philanthropists, they belonged to families that had a belief in giving back to the community in which they had made their wealth. How many of those raking in their zillions in the Square Mile today would subscribe to that philosophy?

I have no idea what motivates Blavatnik to give, but I despair at the background murmur of snide comments whenever he donates to the arts. Yes, he made his first billion by being opportunistic in the wild-west Russia of the 1990s. Doubtless, the story of his early years in the aluminium smelting business would make an enthralling and instructive movie.

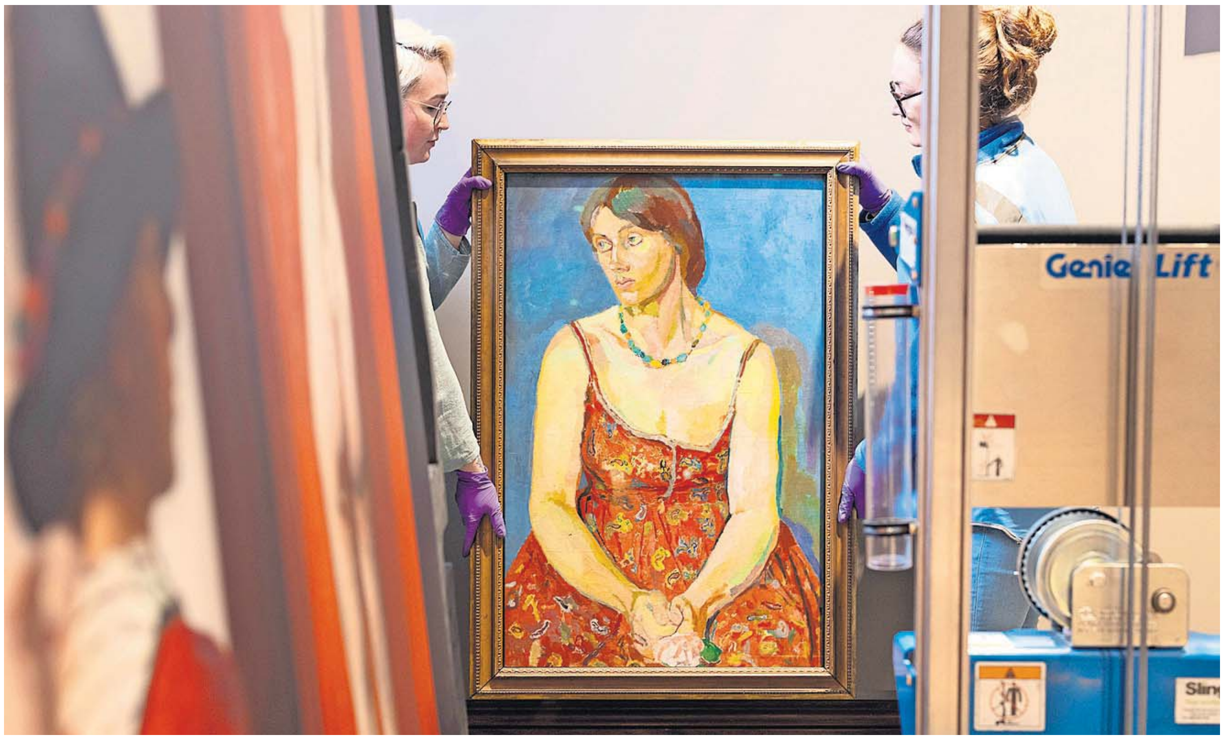
However, it's both discourteous and self-defeating for people in the UK arts scene to regard every source of non-government funding, whether corporate or philanthropic, as potentially "tainted". The cynical observation usually attributed to Balzac — "behind every great fortune lies a great crime" — is a cracking bon mot, but not actually true. Our arts organisations won't unlock the full potential of philanthropy until influential performers, artists and directors stop spouting this surly suspicion of "big business" and of those who have prospered by being good at it.

The big London-based cultural institutions, in particular, really need to rise above that. For better or worse, government funding is increasingly going to be channelled away from the capital, away from national performing companies and galleries, towards community and small-town projects. Call it levelling up, call it madness: that's the chosen path. And it won't change, because it suits politicians in every party to be seen as "anti-elitist" and "pro-regions". So London's big arts organisations will need to find a lot more private donors and corporate sponsors to keep themselves solvent.

I can already hear their squeals of "don't you think we are already trying?", to which the answer has to be, "try harder". Yes, we need the government to create better tax incentives for people to give, but the arts institutions themselves need to recruit board members who are determined and well connected enough to raise serious private money, not least from their own piggy banks. And the arts world generally needs to woo the super-rich, make them feel valued, a lot more enthusiastically than it does at present.

Blavatnik can't fund everyone, but there are 65 other billionaires resident in London, plus a staggering 4,500 people with assets over £25 million. Persuade even a minority of them to become significant donors and the future of Britain's world-class arts organisations would look a lot rosier than it does right now.

DAVID PARRY



The reinstallation of a painting in the Blavatnik Wing of the National Portrait Gallery, due to reopen in 2023

> It's self-defeating to regard all private funding as 'tainted'

Religion helps us decipher great art

Our new King has work to do if he really wants to be "defender of faith". The census statistics released this week show that England and Wales are now two of the world's least religious countries. The ranks of Christians, in particular, seem to be shrivelling by the week. As Nietzsche didn't quite write: God is dead, long live shopping.

The cultural implications are profound, especially if pressure now grows (as it will) for religious education to be dropped entirely from state schools. A vast amount of western art, music and literature is based on classical mythology or Judeo-Christian theology. The first is already a closed book to most people, the second likely to become so in the near future.

Fewer and fewer of us will have the knowledge to unlock the symbolism of Bach's St Matthew Passion or Michelangelo's *Last Judgment*. Art will seem ever more the preserve of the elite few.

Win a trip to Tennessee with Dolly Parton's Christmas Carol

To celebrate the opening of *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* this December, one Times+ member will win a trip to Tennessee. Plus, win tickets to the show.



Visit mytimesplus.co.uk

TIMES+ OFFERS | COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

The Soundtrack of America MADE IN TENNESSEE TNVACATION.COM

T&Cs apply.

THE CRITICS

Will Hodgkinson can't stop dancing to Carl Cox p9
James Marriott is underwhelmed by Kathy Burke p10
Carol Midgley gawps at some risqué sex p15

Is this the best pandemic movie yet?

the big film

Noah Baumbach's Covid-inspired comedy satire, starring Adam Driver, charms

Kevin Maher



WILSON WEBB/NETFLIX

Jack and Babette Gladney, played by Adam Driver and Greta Gerwig, with the rest of the Gladney clan

White Noise
15, 135min
★★★★☆

We've had the London-set melodrama *Locked Down*, Hollywood comedy *The Bubble*, the Bo Burnham musical *Inside* and the Michael Bay action movie *Songbird*. Now it appears to be the turn of the Oscar-nominated writer-director Noah Baumbach (*Marriage Story*) to take a crack at Covid on screen. And what he delivers with this witty and darkly amusing satire is perhaps the most emotionally accurate, disturbing and "pandemic-y" movie yet, but with one significant catch — it's not actually about the pandemic.

It is, instead, a vastly expensive (budget estimates range from £68 million to £120 million) arthouse epic featuring the *Star Wars* brooder Adam Driver and a killer cloud of toxic gas. It's a thoughtful, melancholic film that delves into the intimate psychological impact of terrifying external catastrophes, and is adapted from a Don DeLillo bestseller that's mostly set on a fictional Midwestern US college campus in 1984. And yet… The film was developed and cast at the height of the 2020 lockdown (it was filmed in summer 2021), and Baumbach has spoken about how unnerving it was to reread the novel during the pandemic and realise that DeLillo was somehow predicting the "current moment". And so, as the toxic cloud descends in the movie, and the masks go on, and the citizens complain of quarantines and restrictions, it seems obvious that this is a movie that is digesting, in often bleakly witty ways, the global events of the past three years.

Baumbach boldly casts 39-year-old Driver, typically sympathetic, as a slightly younger version of Jack Gladney, the novel's middle-aged anti-hero. Gladney is a bumptious culture studies professor and renowned "Hitler expert" who is prone to mansplaining and to regarding the world around him as little more than source material for impromptu disquisitions on the semiological richness of consumer culture. In an extraordinary standalone sequence Gladney delivers a dazzling if superficial lecture on the ties between Hitler, Elvis and the murderous instincts of the Nazi Party. He discusses the "eroticism" of crowds, and the human impulse to join crowds as a counterpoint to isolation and death. That virtuoso scene is intercut with a spectacularly realised train smash nearby, resulting in the toxic cloud. It's as if Gladney's words, flip and irreverent, have somehow conjured a real and punitive horror to alter his life for ever and to snap him out of his pomposity. The film's dramatic reality is like this. The tone is always slightly heightened, and at times on the edge of surreal.

Orbiting around Gladney is his eccentric wife, Babette, played by Baumbach's partner, Greta Gerwig, who, again, is younger than the book's Babette, and about 50lb lighter (weight loss is a key issue on the page). The pair's fractious brood of blended children and stepchildren include the anxious Denise (Raffey Cassidy), as well as younger sister Steffie and precocious intellectual Heinrich, played by the siblings May and Sam Nivola, the offspring of Alessandro Nivola and Emily Mortimer. When the Gladney clan are seen together, frequently at meal times or crowded into their battered station wagon, they resemble a chaotic sitcom ensemble who consistently challenge each other with their rhetorical élan (Heinrich can even out-spoof Jack). All flimflammery, meanwhile, is haunted by the shadow presence of imminent death, hovering above them like, literally, a cloud.

Mortality is, of course, the film and the book's great theme, and it drives a secondary plot about Babette's secret addiction to an experimental pharmaceutical super-pill that promises to eradicate her fear of transience. Babette reveals this inner trauma during a confession scene that's bathed in sickly green light recalling a similar sequence in Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. Baumbach is celebrated primarily as a wordsmith, but *White Noise* is certainly one of his greatest cinematic accomplishments, with allusive nods to everything from Kubrick to the Coen Brothers and a couple of *Cannonball Run* movies.

His writing here, ironically, is not as acrid as in earlier outings, perhaps because of the ameliorating influence of the softer, more cerebral DeLillo. There is no hatred here, nor anything to equal the contempt with which Baumbach's characters often, however briefly, regard each other — see Driver and Scarlett Johansson in *Marriage Story*, or Jesse Eisenberg and Laura Linney in *The Squid and the Whale*. Instead, in this dramatic milieu, even the final act villain is treated with compassion, while everyone else is simply battered and bemused by human helplessness. Which is very now.

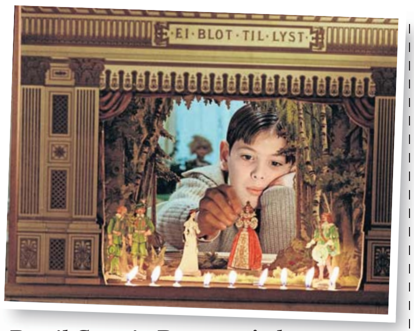
In cinemas and on Netflix from December 30

---

classic film of the week

Fanny and Alexander (1982)
15, 189min
★★★★☆

The last great Ingmar Bergman masterwork, made when the 64-year-old film-maker was recovering from a tax evasion case, is also his most harshly autobiographical. Mined from the difficult specifics of Bergman's childhood in early 20th-century Uppsala, the ecclesiastical centre of Sweden, the drama is built around a battle of wills between young and imaginative Alexander Ekdahl (Bertil Guve) and his joyless and violent new stepfather, Bishop Edvard Vergérus (Jan Malmsjo) — apparently modelled on Bergman's father Erik, a strict Lutheran minister.



Bertil Guve in Bergman's drama

The film is a series of often lavishly staged set pieces (see the opening Christmas celebrations sequence) punctuated by the punishments of Alexander and culminating in a deviously administered sedative. The final-reel jump scare remains an absolute shrieker.

Kevin Maher

In cinemas

ALLEN FRASER/UNIVERSAL PICTURES



Ho-ho-horrible: Christmas gets gruesome in Violent Night

It's a splatterfest with a heart

David Harbour manages to be sympathetic as a murderous Santa, says Kevin Maher

Die Hard meets *Miracle on 34th Street*. That's it. That's the pitch. And most of this blood-soaked action comedy fulfils those expectations. It features a jaded, semi-alcoholic Santa (David Harbour) who, while trapped in the mega-mansion of billionaire businesswoman Gertrude Lightstone (Beverly D'Angelo) on Christmas Eve, decides that he has finally lost faith in human goodness and contemporary children, whom he calls "greedy little shits".

If only he could participate in some inconceivably violent event involving multiple murders and neck-snapping, throat-slitting mayhem that would restore his belief in self-sacrifice and yuletide celebrations. Cut to the stealthy arrival of an international gang of heavily armed super-thieves, led by John Leguizamo in Hans Gruber mode (his character is called Mr Scrooge), who plan to crack Lightstone's safe and terrorise her family, including button-cute granddaughter Trudy (Leah Brady).

Santa, naturally, goes ballistic and, channelling his Viking roots, picks up a sledgehammer to pulverise the henchmen, one savage, skull-splitting, camera-splashing blow at a time.

So, yes, it's not Chekhov. It's produced by the team behind the adrenaline-fuelled *Bullet Train* and *Nobody*. If it has a big flaw it is, as with those films, an issue of overkill — watching one grizzled mercenary being stabbed through the eye with a candy cane is mildly amusing, but there are diminishing returns by the time you reach the 25th skewering.

On the flipside, however, is the heart that Harbour brings to the movie. He has given life to cartoonish roles before in *Black Widow* and *Hellboy* but he's deeply sympathetic here, never fully playing the irony or leaning in to the one-note joke, even as he growls to the camera before a killing spree, "Santa Claus is coming to town!"

Instead he finds grace notes in the actions of a middle-aged — though basically immortal — man who's yearning to access the innocence of childhood and will do anything to achieve that goal. And that includes chopping off your head with a shovel.

In cinemas

Violent Night
15, 112min
★★★☆☆

Tori and Lokita
15, 89min
★★★☆☆

Arthouse heavy-hitters the Dardenne brothers (*Rosetta*) are back with another masterclass in socially conscious storytelling. The Belgian directors, Jean-Pierre and Luc, understand the mechanics of narrative at a level that is unsurpassed in contemporary cinema.

This new film begins as an exposé of inhuman EU bureaucracy, as two refugees from Benin and Cameroon — 16-year-old Lokita (Mbundu Joely) and 12-year-old Tori (Pablo Schils) — struggle for legal residency in Liège.

Almost immediately, in a swift dramatic beat, Lokita and Tori are revealed to be dealing drugs for a local kingpin who masquerades as a pizza chef. They also owe money to a ruthless trafficker.

Two quick story turns later and Tori and Lokita are trapped in a dope factory, then not trapped, then out-foxing the kingpin, then facing their greatest challenge yet.

It's remarkably assured material, impeccably played and with restless political undercurrents, from two film-makers operating at a seemingly effortless pace.

In cinemas

Sr
15, 89min
★★★☆☆

Fascinating in ambition, if not execution, this eccentric portrait of the countercultural film-maker Robert Downey Sr, produced by his A-lister son Robert Downey Jr, is a noble and consistently entertaining failure.

The father, 83, is unashamedly inscrutable and slowly succumbing to Parkinson's disease. The son, with director Chris Smith (*The Yes Men*), makes an alternative documentary, letting "Sr" cut his own vérité footage while "Jr" examines his life.

This "making of the making of" features filmed phone calls between father and son, stilted conversations, recorded therapy sessions and Jr tackling childhood resentments about family poverty and inappropriate parental behaviour. The teary catharsis never comes, yet the film is a crackpot testament to the words of Jr's therapist: "It's what your family does. You make art of your lives."

Netflix

Christmas in the Caribbean
PG, 90min
★☆☆☆☆

With *Falling for Christmas*, Lindsay Lohan delivered one of the worst yuletide rom-coms ever. Liz Hurley presumably saw that film and said, "Hold my beer!"

This execrable effort features Hurley as London theatre critic Rachel Webb, who jets off to St Kitts after being jilted. There, with gal pals Amanda (Caroline Quentin) and Rebecca (Nathalie Cox), she enjoys cocktails, slow-motion laughing, falling for sexy chef Alessandro (Edoardo Costa) and spewing banalities such as, "I've just met this gorgeous guy. The way he was looking at me!" Love blossoms and Alessandro smooches his way through her industrial-strength lipgloss.



Liz Hurley remains oddly watchable in this execrable festive film

It's terribly shot and excruciatingly performed. And yet, Hurley remains oddly watchable. It's car-crash cinema.

Amazon, Sky and Apple TV+ from December 5

Three Minutes: A Lengthening
12A, 69min
★★★★☆

The cultural critic Roland Barthes once said that the photographic moment was a "traumatic one in which the subject experiences the passing from living being to dead image". That theory is evident in a film about casually snapped holiday footage that's full of historical trauma.

The subject is three minutes of colour 16mm film, capturing the carefree Jewish community in the Polish town of Nasielsk in August 1938, one year before their deportation to the ghettos and eventual extermination in Treblinka.

The documentary, directed by Bianca Stigter and narrated by Helena Bonham Carter, is initially an account of the film stock's restoration and the investigative work required to identify the smiling subjects on camera. But it becomes much more disturbing, as the witness testimonies (audio only) from the deportations are heard over the incessantly replayed footage. It's unnerving and important film-making about grief, loss and bearing witness.

In cinemas and on Curzon Home Cinema

Carl Cox: the man to get you dancing

The DJ's album of pure machine music skips past the brain and goes straight for the body instead, says Will Hodgkinson

It is a noble endeavour but a strangely underrated one, critically speaking at least: making music that makes you want to dance. "You can't go anywhere in this country without hearing dance music," Carl Cox, 60, the Sussex-based DJ who has been playing records everywhere from Scout huts to the House of Commons since he was 15, told The Times last year. "Nobody thought dance music would get this far. It's what we enjoy and you can't ignore it."

Nonetheless, a predominantly electronic form of music that emerged out of funk and disco in the late 1970s, before taking off in Britain with warehouse parties in the mid-1980s then exploding into the Ecstasy and tabloid horror-fuelled phenomenon that was acid house at the end of the decade, faced a serious threat to its existence in 2020.

Dance music proved it can survive changing fashions, even legislation such as the 1994 Criminal Justice Act that killed off the early raves and turned moving about to repetitive beats into a taxable industry. Yet a global situation that demanded we all stay indoors and learn to bake bread rather than lose our minds in a field with a few thousand strangers before wondering what we did with the car keys was a challenge too far. *Electronic Generations*, which is as pure a dance album as you could imagine, is a product of those strange two years.

DAN REID



pop

Carl Cox
Electronic Generations
BMG
★★★★☆

Cox started out doing DJ sets during lunch breaks at his school in Carshalton, grew into a cult name through the rave years, became the resident DJ at the legendary Ibizan nightclub Space, and by 1999 was such a big deal that he managed to perform in both Sydney and Hawaii at the dawn of the millennium by hopping from one time zone to another by private jet.

Playing other people's records made Cox rich and famous, but it also meant that when the pandemic hit he had nothing to do. So he started an internet show called *Cabin Fever* in which he streamed sets from his garage in slippers and a dressing gown, and through this has come an album that is strangely, refreshingly out of time with the mood of 2022.

It is instrumental machine music in its purest form: unchanging synthetic beats, futuristic keyboard melodies repeated to the point of hypnotism, a vague air of modernist hopefulness,

> **"It's strangely, refreshingly out of time with the mood of 2022**

the real potential for usage as an accompaniment to a bout of brainwashing.

The former Radio 1 DJ Peter Powell once called acid house "the closest thing to mass organised zombiedom", and with Cox's album you know what he meant — but in a good way. *Toys Out of the Pram* pulses along with unthinking precision.

The bleeps on *World Gone Mad* get increasingly hysterical, as if something terrible is about to happen and we had better do what our cult leader says. *Speed Trials on Acid* has a transporting but ominous quality that makes you want to lose yourself to the mindless boogie.

How much you would want to listen to music made for dancing while sitting at home is another matter, but with *Electronic Generations* Cox has set out with a pure artistic purpose: to make sounds that bypass the brain and head straight for the body. It is strangely liberating.

White Lung
Premonition
Domino
★★★★☆

There's something about this Vancouver three-piece which is refreshingly straightforward. Songs rarely get beyond the three-minute mark, they head to raw emotional balladry or angry buzzsaw blasts, and singer Mish Barber-Way's story-based lyrics capture the frustrations of everyday life in a direct way. *Date Night* is about being picked up by a drunk guy in a Cadillac; *Tomorrow* is a reaction to Barber-Way discovering she was pregnant and realising life would never be the same. It all zips along without much second guessing, like the band had a plane to catch.



Olly Murs
Marry Me
EMI
★★★☆☆

Britain will always have a place in its heart for Olly Murs, not least after he interpreted a fight between two men in Selfridges in 2017 as a terrorist incident and tweeted updates from the storage unit he was bundled into. As a pop star of such guilelessness he's easy to mock, but also rather charming. On *I Hate You When You're Drunk* he becomes the boyfriend attempting to get his wasted girlfriend into an Uber, and *Die of a Broken Heart* borrows the pop reggae of the Police's *Message in a Bottle* for a song about heartbreak on which Murs sounds like his usual cheery self. Coupled with a disco anthem, *Don't Stop Dancing*, it all makes Murs the Leo Sayer of 2022: nothing too deep, nothing too original, likeable nonetheless.

The naked composer — this is Mozart uncovered

Always keen to be up to date, I have been reading Percy Scholes's *Everybody's Guide to Broadcast Music*. It was published in 1925. On page 130, he suggests that string quartet music doesn't offer much variety of colour. Scholes obviously hasn't been listening to the Chiaroscuro Quartet, the international group led by the pugnaciously imaginative violinist Alina Ibragimova.



Specialists in classical-era repertoire, played with gut strings, they regularly generate such hues and dynamics that each note has its own personality, while never jeopardising the cohesion of four players brilliantly working as a team.

The repertoire here, Mozart's three delightful "Prussian" quartets, gives an unusually prominent place to the cello, the instrument played by Prussia's King Friedrich Wilhelm II. Claire Thirion's warm, graceful tone makes the singing cello lines a juicy treat, and a useful counterpoint to the wiry ferocity typical of Ibragimova, *left*, at full throttle. The quartet's first violinist is equally striking when reducing her attack and tone to a beautiful glance and whisper.

The vibrato shortage among the players may make some listeners feel the music has been stripped of its clothes, leaving the sounds naked. But musical nudity doesn't disturb me when the artistic results of the Chiaroscuro approach are so plentiful and enlivening, such as the absolute clarity, rhythmic vitality, high drama, lithe lyricism and wit.

classical

Chiaroscuro Quartet
Mozart
BIS
★★★★★

John Nelson
Berlioz
Erato
★★★★☆

As for Mozart's contribution, only one movement among the album comes anywhere near being boring, and that's the slow movement of K 590, which the booklet annotator calls "haunting". So there you are; it could just be me.

The unusual colours in John Nelson's latest foray into his favourite composer, Berlioz, stem from Michael Spyres, the superbly flexible and eloquent tenor soloist in *Les nuits d'été*, a song cycle far more commonly sung by sopranos or mezzos.

You also get Timothy Ridout's viola vibrantly threading through the landscapes of *Harold in Italy*. Nelson's measured approach to the music is very persuasive; so is the Strasbourg Philharmonic's playing. This isn't a blockbuster like Nelson's accounts of Berlioz giants such as *The Trojans* or *Damnation of Faust*. But small is beautiful too.
Geoff Brown

T
Folk album
Wry singer-songwriter Terence Blacker's Meanwhile… reviewed at thetimes.co.uk/arts

Trevor Beales
Fireside Stories
Basin Rock
★★★★☆

Trevor Beales was a teenager from Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire in the early 1970s when, inspired by his town's bohemian traditions and the emerging singer-songwriter movement, he recorded a handful of pretty, contemplative songs on finger-picked acoustic guitar. Beales left Hebden Bridge to get on with his life before dying unexpectedly in 1987, aged 33, and his youthful expressions from a sensitive mind remained buried — until now. The accomplished playing recalls masters like John Martyn and Bert Jansch while the tales of everyday suffering — "No one has the time to listen as they dodge passing cars," Beales sings of the busker's lot on *City Lights* — are poignant. The result is an unearthed quiet gem, ideal as accompaniment for evenings spent by the fireside.

arts



My kids have ruined my Spotify Wrapped

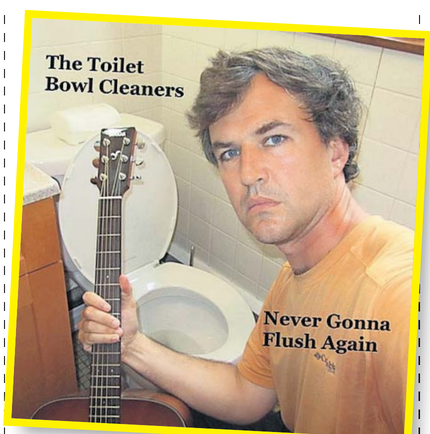
The Toilet Bowl Cleaners top Leonard Cohen and Crazy Frog beats the Cramps on my most-played list, says Ben Machell

I wish I had a good Spotify Wrapped this year. I wish I could post it on social media and make people go: "Oh wow, look, Ben Machell has really great taste in music! Fun yet sophisticated, a little left-field, with due homage paid to the classics while demonstrating an ear for up-and-coming artists that completely belies his 40 years. He is, in conclusion, a very cool guy who we can all learn a great deal from sonically."

Only nobody is saying this. Because I don't have a good Spotify Wrapped. Because I have children. And they've ruined everything. Over the past 12 months my six-year-old girl and eight-year-old boy have embraced the music-streaming revolution. The problem is, they've done it using my Spotify account, creating a kind of sound clash that when I was reviewing my "most played" tracks of 2022 looked as if it should be the soundtrack to a remake of *High Fidelity* as directed by Dick and Dom.

So, for example, the novelty song *Butt Cheeks Butt Cheeks Butt Cheeks!* by the Toilet Bowl Cleaners (sample lyric: "You got cheeks on your face, you also got cheeks on your butt/ The poop comes out from between your butt cheeks") is, in the final standings, four places ahead of *So Long, Marianne* by Leonard Cohen. *Nobody Like U*, a track by the fictional boy band 4*Town, who feature in the Pixar film *Turning Red*, is my third most listened to song of the year.

Bad Habits by Ed Sheeran is at No 1.





From top: 4*Town, the Toilet Bowl Cleaners and Ed Sheeran are on Ben Machell's (children's) year-end playlist on the streaming service

It's my daughter's absolute favourite song ever, and the soundtrack of a trillion car journeys and kitchen discos. It has now got to the stage where something feels wrong if *Bad Habits* isn't playing, like I'm one of those babies from Sarajevo who couldn't sleep after the shelling stopped. In my heart I want strangers on the internet to know I've been nodding appreciatively to the Notorious BIG, the Cramps and Lana Del Rey. But where they would have once been it's now Crazy Frog, *Gangnam Style* and *We Don't Talk About Bruno*. A demented cabaret, ceaseless and inescapable, and smelling somewhat of Haribo and farts.

It is, I suppose, an extended metaphor for the erosion of self that is parenthood. But my girlfriend and I are not going down without a fight. Because, reviewing our most played tracks, what's interesting is spotting the songs that we have all agreed on, or that we have at least persuaded our children to tolerate. So, at No 2, it's *Edge of Seventeen* by Stevie Nicks, an absolute monster of a tune that prompted my daughter to demand a drum kit for her birthday. Kate Bush, the Weeknd and Weezer are considered by all parties sufficiently bearable to make the list. And, to be honest, I am coming round to the Toilet Bowl Cleaners. If I can convince enough people that they are genuine outsider artists, I reckon they'll be in with a good shout for the Mercury prize. Maybe then I'll post my Spotify Wrapped. Maybe.

Death-wish banter with Kathy Burke



Celebrity chat rarely works in a podcast format: it's too wafty and whimsical, says James Marriott

podcasts

Where There's a Will There's a Wake

★★☆☆☆

Dawn French says she'd like to die on stage, "Tommy Cooper style". "A big laugh and a round of applause… and then an awkward silence." She's the first guest on the actress Kathy Burke's new podcast, *Where There's a Will There's a Wake*. The idea is that Burke asks celebrities how they'd like to die — from the moment of expiration to interment and then to a possible afterlife (French says she'd come back as a ghost to whisper "undermining" phrases to cocky people).

Ah, it's all right, I suppose. The "death" theme is a decent structuring idea. Where traditional radio has always excelled in formats, formulas and concepts — *Desert Island Discs*, *Mock the Week*, *Just a Minute*, *Woman's Hour* — podcasting's looser, more chummy vibe makes it vulnerable to conversations between celebrities that drift off into congratulatory banality.

The high-water mark of this sort of thing was probably the time David Tennant used his podcast to ask Judi Dench, "Does it not feel like a terrible pressure to be so adored?"

Unfortunately, even death fails to focus the minds of Burke and French. For example, French says she wants horses with plumes, and a see-through "Barbie-style" hearse. She would be "embalmed in full make-up with lashes, possibly in a vicar's outfit", "Brownies with recorders" would provide the music, Jennifer Saunders would read the eulogy and the wake would be in a room above a pub.

Guests would drink Um Bongo. And so on and on and on. By the time French is explaining that she would like her coffin to be propped up at the Cornish border, a skeletal hand sticking out the side to welcome visitors, the listener may feel all the wafting whimsy is beginning to feel rather pointless.



Dead funny: Kathy Burke, who hosts Where There's a Will, There's a Wake

The thing needs order, structure and rules! I found myself itching for the presence of a BBC producer to codify the rather random questions into a set of efficient interviewing tools to extract proper answers and anecdotes.

A tougher, less jovial presenter might have pressed a bit more firmly on emotional tender spots. Serving your guests Um Bongo is funny (or it's supposed to be) but what about being forced to choose a genuinely emotionally revealing food to serve at your wake — something that unlocks stories from the past, the way the songs do on *Desert Island Discs*. It would have made for a more profound podcast. Ah well. Celebs will be celebs.

FIRST NIGHT

the best critics on the top shows of the week



Dominic Maxwell sees a bullish Ricky Gervais p12

Richard Morrison toasts the elastic Simon Rattle p13

Rachel Halliburton revels in a delightful panto p14

At last this Cinders goes to the ball

Rodgers and Hammerstein's vintage musical sparkles in its first UK staging, says Donald Hutera

PAMELA RAITH; GERAINT LEWIS



Grace Mouat as Cinderella with Julie Yammanee as the Fairy Godmother in Hope Mill's fine production

Dating from 1957 and conceived as a vehicle for Julie Andrews, *Cinderella* is the only one of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II's collaborations to have been composed for television. It hasn't received a full staging in the UK until now. The wait was well worthwhile. Co-directed by the small but redoubtable Hope Mill Theatre's co-founders Joseph Houston and William Whelton, the production sparkles in every department. The combination of high quality and the rarity factor makes this a show worth going out of one's way to see — and hear.

The score is excellent, balancing melodic romantic ballads, delightful comic songs and rousing ensemble numbers. Thanks to astute casting it is, without exception, beautifully sung at Hope Mill. The venue is presenting the vintage musical's 2013 revamp, which was, remarkably, its Broadway premiere. That event entailed commissioning a new book, by Douglas Carter Beane, that lent Hammerstein's original a decidedly political gravitas while underlining its disarming and witty sweetness.

There are so many strong points at work in Hope Mill's production that

theatre

Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella
Hope Mill, Manchester
★★★★☆

it's hard to know where to begin. You could start with Grace Mouat's lovely performance in the title role. Her Ella, as the character is named here, is constantly placed in a servile role by a wicked, or, more accurately — in Annie Aitken's stylishly bitchy portrayal — hugely egotistical stepmother. But this young woman is never downtrodden or pathetic. She has brains, empathy, wisdom and spirit, and of a kind that can well steer Jacob Fowler's ardent but callow Prince Topher in the right direction as the budding ruler of a kingdom marked by pronounced socioeconomic divisions. Talk about topical.

The venue may be tiny, but it manages to give *Cinderella* the royal treatment it deserves. Enhanced by

> **This is a show worth going out of one's way to see — and hear**

George Reeves's superb projections, Elly Widowski's set and costumes are gorgeously economical. Cheers, too, to Audra Cramer's direction of an unseen seven-piece band. Whelton's choreography, meanwhile, has just the right airy grace and vigour. The production has a cast of 17, yet the stage never seems cramped. There isn't room here to credit everyone, but all make a mark. Perhaps it's best to simply cite the soaring-voiced Julie Yammanee, whose mischievously sly Fairy Godmother delivers the inspirational anthem *There's Music in You*. That song's uncloying positivity sums it all up very nicely.

To Dec 11, hopemilltheatre.co.uk

Body-popping and clockmaking — but no tutus

theatre

The Nutcracker
Bristol Old Vic
★★★☆☆

Don't expect Tchaikovsky and a sea of tutus. This seasonal entertainment from the pen of Tom Morris, outgoing artistic director, is a thoroughly quirky, sometimes confusing musical reboot of the ETA Hoffmann story that inspired Tchaikovsky's ballet. So many twists are crammed into the script, along with a homily on the power of empathy, that I don't mind admitting I lost my way at times. But the young children in the stalls were smitten, so perhaps the fault was mine.

Lee Lyford's production is a DayGlo treat. The set and costume designer Tom Rogers fills the space with an array of mechanical bric-a-brac presided over by Tristan Sturrock's genial clockmaker, Mr Choke, who struck up a cheerful rapport with the youngsters from the moment he wandered in from the auditorium.

The composer, lyricist and musical director Gwyneth Herbert is kept busy, alternating between playing the keyboard with the band perched on a gantry and taking the role of the villainous Queen Mouse, who spreads mayhem and ill will before having her innards spilt, much to the delight of the audience. A thoroughly uncategorisable singer, Herbert has an extraordinary voice, sometimes smoky, sometimes breathtakingly pure: someone should build a grown-up show around her one of these days.

The skeletal songs take on a halting, Sondheim-esque flavour at the start, then begin to flow more easily. Mae Munuo — so impressive in Unicorn Theatre's video-driven adaptation of *Gulliver's Travels* this year — makes an engaging heroine as Claire, whose parents (energetically played by Patrycja Kujawska and Kirris Rivieré) are too busy being entrepreneurs to give her the attention she craves.



Denzel Baidoo as the Nutcracker

Guy Hughes steals scenes as Claire's brother, Eddie, who, as the fantasy unfolds, is transformed into a timorous Action Man and the demure, ultra-feminine Curly Pearly. If Morris and Herbert pull Hoffmann's tale into unfamiliar shapes, Denzel Baidoo — making his stage debut — makes a thoroughly engaging, body-popping Nutcracker. There's a good, throwaway joke about waiting times in hospital A&Es too. By the end, I'd stopped worrying about being able to follow every nuance of the storyline: the cast had won over the children anyway, and the Old Vic's gorgeous interior, warmed by Anna Watson's lighting, resembled more than ever the wrapping on the ideal Christmas present.

Clive Davis

To Jan 7, bristololdvic.org.uk

first night

theatre

Jack!

Chickenshed, N14
★★★★☆

Panto heads into the metaverse in this high-tech, head-spinning and above all crowded Christmas show.

There are 800 performers of all ages and abilities — spread over four rotating casts — in this version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. But don't expect magic beans. Instead, Hector Dogliani's tracksuited teenage Jack swaps an old console for extra lives on a computer game, *Beanstalk*, which he is promised can solve all his problems. Inside *Beanstalk* he must battle hordes of the Chickenshed's wildly enthusiastic cast at various challenges to make it to the final level, a showdown with a giant whose pixelated features look… strangely familiar. Dad, is that you?

Chickenshed credits one writer-composer and four directors. On his script Dave Carey could have done with some back-up, because the fiddly virtual gaming concept needs sharper, tighter writing. The gist, however, carries through. A group of fourth-wall breakers who call themselves "tech support" create amiable havoc when they accidentally unplug the entire online universe on stage, but most of their banter sails over the audience's heads.

The joyousness comes from the big numbers. Andrew Caddies's sliding set is a joy, taking us in and out of a computer game as if that's as easy as it sounds. The video design (Caddies and Phil Haines) has an authentic retro feel, and Emma Gale's costumes are a riot.

It's in the set pieces that Carey proves his mettle as a composer, with poppy yet never derivative songs which are embraced with terrific fervour by the diverse cast. Dogliani's soulful voice (he is one of two Jacks you might see) is pretty seductive too, although it would be good to hear a bit more of Cara McInanny's belting mezzo in the role of (don't overthink it) Pinball Avatar. It all ends with a groovy group song about love as Jack sorts out his woes with time travel and his family are suddenly, improbably, wealthy and happy again. It's a bit of a handbrake turn but, then again, the original *Jack and the Beanstalk* has an actual golden goose.

Neil Fisher
To Jan 7, chickenshed.org.uk

RAY BURMISTON



The 61-year-old comic delivers an assured display of woke-baiting on his new tour, Armageddon

The smiling prophet of stand-up heresy

Ricky Gervais's barbed gags avoid the obvious, says Dominic Maxwell

comedy

Ricky Gervais

O2 Apollo, Manchester
★★★★☆

Is this what's called "doubling down"? Ricky Gervais got in hot water this year for supposed transphobia in his latest Netflix stand-up special. Now he's back on tour with a show, *Armageddon*, ostensibly organised around the things that will end the world. In fact, though, it burns brightest at the moments when it's charged by Gervais's renewed devotion to saying the wrong thing.

There was, he admits, a "big backlash" to the special, *SuperNature*. So big, he notes, that it's become the most widely watched comedy special of the year. "So I've learnt my lesson." In lesser hands, the sort of woke-baiting he goes on to do would be the stuff of a rather naff right-wing rag on oversensitivity. Gervais, though, is careful to avoid his stand-up ever looking like an effort, and knows his mission is to avoid the obvious. He doesn't want to tread on toes: he wants to dance on them, with a "doctor, doctor" joke about gender self-identification, say. Or jokes against selfish disabled boys, angling for pricey motor scooters for Christmas, or under-age Chinese sweatshop workers, failing to make his dirt-cheap joggers to his satisfaction. He teases us with the idea that he's just being outright awful but always finds ways to reassure us that he's not.

Well, almost always. Not for the first time in his recent live work, he reminds us that this is a kind of deluxe work-in-progress for the finished show that will eventually wind people up the wrong way on Netflix. "That's not going in the special," he says after one half-brilliant, half-ragged routine about child marriage in Pakistan. It's a line he's used before, but we accept the flattery that we have just heard something too contentious for the masses.

> ‘That's not going in the Netflix special,' he says

For a good, ooh, two thirds of this hour-long show, Gervais is about as funny as he's been on stage. His irritation at the illiberalism of so much supposed liberal-mindedness spurs him on. He talks about how language evolves, notes how the bar for being deemed "fascist" has lowered so far that it now just means "liking a Joe Rogan tweet". Trouncing slack thinking with a smile on his face, he's charged and focused.

The end of the world can't quite excite him in the same way, and as his attention switches to slugs, or weddings, the odd stand-up standby creeps in. As with his previous show, he can't quite keep up the pace of his blistering start.

Yet throughout, wearing his black T-shirt, sipping at his now-familiar beer can secreted in his lectern, Gervais, 61, conceals carefully prepared, joshingly needling material in casually fluent delivery. Comedy, he says at the end, "is an inoculation for real life". His quality control slips now and then: do we need quite so much paedophile material? (This is an aesthetic complaint, not a moral one.) Much of the time, though, his chortling heresies are freeingly funny.

Touring to Dec 15 (with 2023 dates to be announced), livenation.co.uk

theatre

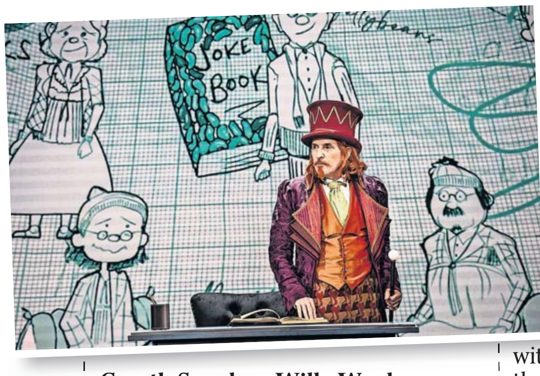
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Leeds Playhouse
★★★☆☆

There is something decidedly un-Christmassy about Roald Dahl's children's books, although the author's sadistic edge would probably have struck a chord with Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch. Nonetheless, theatrical versions of his stories are a fixture of the festive season, from David Wood's enduring adaptations of *The BFG* and *The Twits* to the large-scale musical spectacle of Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's *Matilda*.

James Brining's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* joins the latter camp, harnessing the talents of a 21-strong ensemble and a nine-piece orchestra to create a lavish, densely packed reinvigoration of a familiar tale, touring the UK and Ireland after its run at Leeds Playhouse. The show is based on the 2013 West End version, with a book by David Greig and music and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, and while the most hummable tunes are the evergreen *Pure Imagination* and *The Candy Man*, written by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse for the 1971 film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, all the big musical numbers are staged with invention and humour, crisply choreographed by Emily Jane Boyle.

Brining's is a show of two distinct halves, the most enjoyable run of scenes and songs coming in the first hour, when we meet the intrepid Charlie Bucket (played with pitch-perfect precision at the performance in question by young Isaac Sugden) and his impoverished family. There is something undeniably Dahlian about Simon Higlett's rickety, angular set design, which shifts from the junkyard where Charlie forages for treasures to the Bucket house, with its four bedridden grandparents suspended above the kitchen and the factory chimneys rising in the background.



Gareth Snook as Willy Wonka nails the inventor's eccentricity

Things take an altogether chillier turn after the interval, as Charlie and his fellow finders of golden tickets tour the emporium of confectionery wonders. Gareth Snook captures Willy Wonka's Howard Hughes-like eccentricity, if not quite his sense of wonder; it's hard to imagine such louche insouciance dreaming up the everlasting gobstopper.

The four naughty, greedy children are dispatched quickly and without relish. The Oompa Loompas, meanwhile, are misconceived as silver-faced robots along the lines of *Doctor Who's* Cybermen. Compared with the brass-tacks theatricality of the opening scenes, the overuse of video effects in the second half occasionally overwhelms rather than harmonises with the action, although the redemptive final scenes, including the ride in the great glass elevator, are beautifully pitched.

Allan Radcliffe
To Jan 28, leedsplayhouse.org.uk, then touring to Nov 2023; charlieandthechocolatefactory.co.uk

first night

classical

LSO/Rattle

Barbican

★★★★☆

The London Symphony Orchestra and Simon Rattle are taking this programme on a European tour in the next few days. Two things to note about that. The first is that, however much extra red tape is involved, British orchestras are playing on the continent fairly regularly again. Given that most of them (including the LSO) are facing hefty cuts to their Arts Council grants in April, earning a fistful of euros abroad each year is vital to their survival.

The second is that if the Germans, Austrians and French scrutinise this interpretation of Rachmaninov's Third Symphony for signs of an artistic rupture between the LSO and its departing music director, they will find none. Rattle's approach to the work is extraordinarily elastic. Yet the LSO players responded to his ideas as if with a single mind and a single set of fingers. The result? This symphony, which puzzled and perhaps disappointed its first listeners in 1936 with its terseness and quixotic mood changes, can rarely have sounded so concentrated and compelling.

It's not a sumptuously unfurled work, as Rachmaninov's earlier symphonies were. It looks back with nostalgia, hinting at Russian Orthodox modes and the more settled lyricism of the 19th century, but it constantly disrupts its own reverie — a ferocious fugue here, a dance of death there (featuring a macabre burst of xylophone, always an ominous sign in Russian music), and eerie effects everywhere. Rattle made it seem so cogent, however, and the playing was superb throughout, although perhaps not in a very Russian way. The emphasis was more on razor-sharp precision and textural clarity than weight of string tone.

There was much to admire in an all-Schumann first half too. Rattle applied the same flexible and volatile approach to the *Genoveva* overture, and then Mitsuko Uchida was the soloist in the Piano Concerto. She was at her mercurial best in the joyous filigree of the finale, but had splashy moments whenever the music demanded more muscle. Credit to the LSO and Rattle, however, not just for following her microscopic touches of rubato but for whittling down their timbres to match this most delicate of pianists.

Richard Morrison

MANUEL HARLAN



Honk honk: Clive Rowe, right, is on good form as Mother Goose

There's still nothing like this dame

Clive Rowe is great on stage. As a director he may have overreached, says Dominic Maxwell

theatre

Mother Goose

Hackney Empire, E8

★★★☆☆

Is Clive Rowe the greatest pantomime dame of the century? Oh, he has had some rivals all right, and in the past few years the glitzier London Palladium pantos have stolen some of the limelight from once predominant Hackney. Yet here he is again as the good-hearted beautician turned gaudy golden egg tycoon Mother Goose. And there is nobody you would rather see in a succession of high-concept costumes; smilingly co-opting a "volunteer" from the crowd; bunging out sweeties and call-and-response catchphrases; showing off serious pipes as he belts out soul classics. Whatever lurid nonsense takes place on this stage, he's in charge.

Literally, this year, as sole director for the first time. The result is fun, certainly — take the young ones with impunity. He has retained the sense of scale from the era of Susie McKenna's shows. There is a grounding of innocence and peril alongside the cheek and the audience interplay, the devotion to colourful costumes and songs.

Whether because of the twin demands on Rowe's time, though, or simply because the script — a second credit here for the *Tweenies* co-creator Will Brenton — feels a bit fussy for the house style, this is a good Hackney panto rather than a great one. There's quite a long preamble between the lovely, dungarees-wearing Fairy Game (Gemma Wardle) and the nasty, leggy Demon Queen (Rebecca Parker) that sets out the battle for the soul of Hackneywood. Some of what follows is a solid, twinkly retelling, with fine turns from the Hackney regular Kat B as Goose's son and the newcomers Ope Sowande and Holly Mallett as the romantic leads. (Mallett proves a tasty percussionist — time to introduce the kids to the notion of nominative determinism.)

There are some nice lines: "Time is a great healer, but it's a terrible beautician." The Hackneywood setting is hard to get a handle on, though: its showbizzy nature is mentioned but not really developed, apart from in a jarring awards ceremony sequence that pays tribute to real acts who have played the Hackney Empire in its 120 years. A promising satirical premise about social media, with a dance routine in which the chorus gaze at their phones, doesn't build to much.

If the storytelling is muffled, there is always pleasure in the trimmings. The four-piece band, the renditions of hit songs, the child chorus. It's hard not to feel 50 per cent more alive than you did before when the cast sing and dance to Earth, Wind and Fire's *Fantasy* at the end.

Rowe, already terrific, can surely exude even more mischief as the run goes on. For now, he's playing a captain's innings in another solidly entertaining, finally warming exercise in seasonal nonsense for all ages.

To Dec 31, hackneyempire.co.uk

classical

LPO/Ticciati

Royal Festival Hall

★★★★☆

Boris Johnson once observed that his religious faith was "a bit like the reception for Magic FM in the Chilterns — it sort of comes and goes". Anton Bruckner had no such difficulties tuning in: his Catholicism was ironclad, and the crowning glory of his life's work was intended to be the Symphony No 9, inscribed "Dem lieben Gott" (To the dear Lord).

Unfortunately, however, Bruckner died with the Ninth's finale unfinished. Most often, conductors bring the work to an end with the adagio, a piece of music that grasps for the infinite but leaves us still searching. In today's increasingly godless world, it works rather well.

For much longer than Bruckner laboured over the work, however, Brucknerians have tried to pull the threads together. One notable completion of the finale begun in 1983 has now been re-completed, courtesy of the musicologist John A Phillips, and it was unveiled here for the first time by the London Philharmonic with conductor Robin Ticciati.

Phillips's work, as gracefully unwound by Ticciati's flowing arms, reveals an authentically Brucknerian cocktail of knotty counterpoint, many tantalising callbacks to earlier points in the symphony and a final burst of D-major salvation. This edition will no doubt win some fans among star conductors and it deserves more hearings. Yet there's still a significant gap between what we know we're meant to experience — Bruckner on steroids, essentially — and what we get. I was stirred, not quite shaken.

The most rewarding moments of this performance came earlier, in Ticciati's buoyant tempi and the lithe playing of the LPO strings and winds across the first three "canonical" movements. What can sometimes be monumental and monolithic music felt vigorous and fresh instead.

The first half of the concert had offered more spiritual fervour, with *Five Mystical Songs*, a Vaughan Williams anniversary piece that's cast in a dreamier mould than Bruckner's epic declarations of faith. Simon Keenlyside brought a homespun quality to George Herbert's milky verses but his voice showed rough edges and his repeated glances at his score didn't inspire a huge amount of confidence.

Neil Fisher

theatre

Sleeping Beauty

Marlowe, Canterbury

★★★★☆

There's no chance of dozing for five minutes, let alone one hundred years in this panto, with its jet-powered puns, storming slapstick and ebullient extras ranging from fire jugglers to velociraptors. This *Sleeping Beauty* delivers high-wattage entertainment that would put the national grid to shame.

Jennie Dale's Fairy Moonbeam kick-starts proceedings by announcing that there are 16 hours to go until Princess Aurora's 21st birthday — "We could have three prime ministers in that time" — and the wicked fairy's curse is about to expire. We know, of course, that a curse in a panto is like a gun in a Chekhov play: at some point it's going to go off. But first we have high-octane antics from Ellie Kingdon's Aurora, her best friend Jangles and the psychedelically shameless Nurse Nellie.

The moment that he arrives looking like a lampshade on steroids you can tell that Ben Roddy will keep the action simmering. It's his 14th year as dame at the Marlowe, but there's nothing stale about the sauciness. Max Fulham's Jangles does good service too with his blue velvet suit, gold boots that could have been stolen from *Star Trek* and his puppet monkey, a sarky simian called Gordon. His mission's to protect Aurora from the glamorous baddie Carrie-bosse — played by the star of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cinderella*, Carrie Hope Fletcher — who gives us full-blooded, sinister takes on songs such as the Who's *Pinball Wizard* and the Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams*. In romance terms, today *Sleeping Beauty* is, ahem, a somewhat thorny story, with that non-consensual kiss and passive century-long swoon. The writer and director Paul Hendy deftly deals with this by putting Aurora and the *Strictly* star Ore Oduba's Prince Michael in a relationship before the curse strikes. Both, too, are as humorously assertive as they are likeable — whether it's Oduba doing the splits or Kingdon tackling velociraptors with swords.



Chris Wong's gutsy musical direction goes from one great rock ballad to another, ballasted by Jono Kitchens' seamless choreography. Full marks for dispensing with fake indoor snow and giving us instead smoke-filled bubbles.

Rachel Halliburton

To Jan 8, marlowetheatre.com

18+

WHAT IS
AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME -

the biggest Internet portal, providing you various content: brand new books, trending movies, fresh magazines, hot games, recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages
Brand new content
One site

AVXLIVE.ICU
AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open https://avxlive.icu

first night

comedy

Kevin Bridges

Eventim Apollo, W6
★★★★☆

Remember when you left the cinema as a kid, wanting to trade memories of all the good bits you'd seen? I felt like that after Kevin Bridges's glorious latest stand-up show, named in honour of the four-year gap since his last tour, *The Overdue Catch-Up*.

There was that bit where he raced us through the experience of lockdowns and made it feel fresh rather than overfamiliar. There was the adroit way he handled England winning their World Cup match moments before he stepped on stage — and pointed out that Scotland had "boycotted" this tournament. There was the way this still-boyish 36-year-old Glaswegian introduced marriage and fatherhood, wrapping every idea about getting older and more middle class in a telling observation, a spring-loaded joke.

And how about the set pieces? The stream-of-consciousness routine about his insomnia that packed in so much wisdom? The routine in which he contrasts domestic contentment with the urge to ruin it by sharing it on social media? Or even the bit where he talks "in defence of young people" about how snowflakiness manifests itself differently in different generations? Before admitting he has been "cyberbullied" by a Liverpudlian youth who doesn't rate his *Fifa* skills.

He possesses a mercurial brain and a sense of command that allows for vulnerability. He will chortle at his own joke and beam with innocent delight at his crowd like a character from the Beano. He is observational, personal and even philosophical. And even as he apologises for any offence given, he dishes out the year's funniest use of the c-word.

OK, there I go, cooing over another good bit. There are so many. You sense that there is even one last gear Bridges can go up to join together his insights and observations. Already dependably enjoyable, he may just be on his way to becoming a comedy great.
Dominic Maxwell
Tonight and touring to Dec 15, kevinbridges.co.uk

HELEN MURRAY



Emmanuel Akwafo's Lotty Trott has all the best tunes in the Lyric's dairy-themed Jack and the Beanstalk

Udderly brilliant panto

This show is stacked with puns and pratfalls, says Rachel Halliburton

theatre

Jack and the Beanstalk

Lyric, W6
★★★★☆

This *Jack and the Beanstalk* is a sequin-clad riot of kick-ass choreography, streetwise silliness and jokes about everything from Boris Johnson's golden wallpaper to Schrödinger's cat. A plot centred on Daisy the cow makes for a high-steaks panto with cheesy puns, powered by a bolshy fairy godparent called Jill, a blond-bobbed villain called Fleshcreep and a dame who first erupts on stage as a milkshake.

The Lyric has a reputation for pantos that are as hip as they are hilarious, and Jude Christian and Sonia Jalaly's script nicely fuses the kind of humour that makes tots squeal with laughter with savvy storytelling for adults. We begin at a fairy godparents' finishing school with the tutu-clad Fairy Helpful (Marcus Rashford's godparent) and Fairy Sustainable (Greta Thunberg's godparent); by contrast Fairy Jill is overseeing Jack, who's more interested in Greggs sausage rolls than saving the world.

Leah St Luce delivers a vivid, assured performance as Jack, equally able to navigate the evil machinations of Jodie Jacobs's tax-grabbing Fleshcreep and dance routines to Beyoncé and Dua Lipa. Being the goody opposite of glitterball grotesques is a tricky act to pull off at the best of times, yet she and Maddison Bulleyment's Fairy Jill are gutsy and compelling in their celebration of down-to-earth warts-and-all friendship.

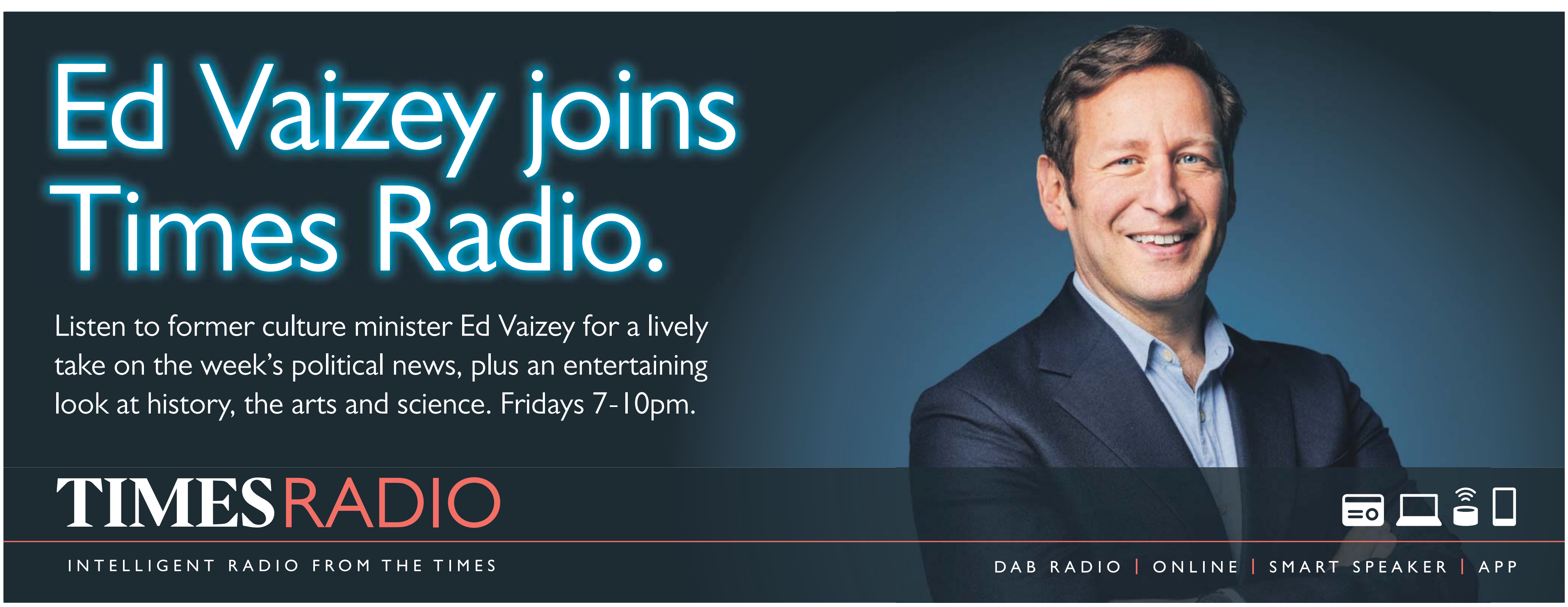
In panto-land, however, it's the dame who has all the best tunes, and Emmanuel Akwafo's Lotty Trott throws himself into the role with the unapologetic overstatement of a hurricane. From the moment that he emerges — his glittery lipstick shimmering against his beard — it's clear we're in for a treat, whether he's deploying udder jokes or narcissistically channelling Whitney Houston in a gown as yellow as butter.

> **The script fuses tots' humour with savvy storytelling**

Nicholai La Barrie, associate director of the Lyric, directs, deftly balancing all the elements of panto so that it feels enjoyably quirky rather than formulaic. Good Teeth's set and costume design are filled with ingenious flourishes, including a flying cow, the obligatory fake snow and a *Minecraft*-style giant.

There's sterling work too from the choreographer Arielle Smith and the composer and arranger Corin Buckeridge. The score rollercoasters through rejigged versions of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Barry White, Louis Theroux/Duke & Jones's *Jiggle Jiggle*, and Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, an exuberant mix that's as witty as it's deceptively effortless.

If you're vegan, or even lactose intolerant, possibly this dairy-obsessed panto isn't for you. If you're not, this inspired silliness is the crème de la crème.
To Jan 7, lyric.co.uk



Candid Cara proves the perfect sex ed teacher

Carol Midgley
TV review



Planet Sex with Cara Delevingne
BBC3
★★★☆☆

Live at the Moth Club
Dave
★★★☆☆

Does a whistling kettle say "female orgasm" to you? No? How about an exploding firework or a flock of birds taking flight? I ask because these were some of the intriguing visual euphemisms used in **Planet Sex with Cara Delevingne** to signify that our host was in the next room having an orgasm. An orgasm she then donated to science, which was kind of her. I feel bad now that I haven't donated any. Is it like giving a coat to the charity shop? For the record, the one I liked best was the cleaner's sign reading "Caution, wet floor". Quite funny, that.

Anyway Delevingne was about as perfect a host as you could get for such a show because she was completely unselfconscious about getting stuck in to all this stuff, including a female masturbation workshop that looked my idea of hell, especially when they talked about a "pussy sandwich", one of the most terrible phrases I've ever heard. Delevingne, the model who is reportedly bisexual, said she wasn't always this confident about her down-belows, but she seems to have got over that and her candour and humour did make it less sleazy, more biological. Although I'm not sure I was quite on board when someone said: "Having a clitoris is a superpower."

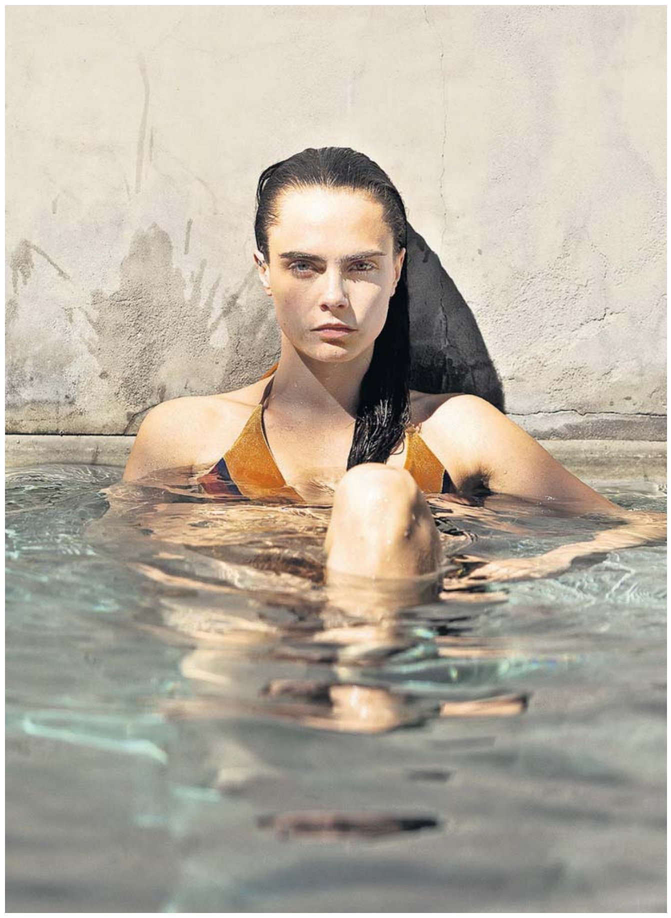
There were more "Oka-a-a-y" moments, such as when Delevingne said: "I have only once spent about an hour making love to myself. I cried." But there was also much that was genuinely educational, not least that during climax human bodies produce a cannabis-like substance. Still, I did wonder if the ones who could really do with a female biology lesson, ie men, would have bothered to watch.

Live at the Moth Club is a kind of mockumentary about a real stand-up comedy club in London and, exactly like a night at a real stand-up comedy club, some parts of it were funny and others were not. The premise is good but since it is written and performed by some of the cast of the most excellent *Stath Lets Flats* it feels like it should be funnier.

More Jamie Demetriou would help; a lot more. Here his performance was a cameo of a dim City boy with no personality who had never been to a comedy club before and couldn't retell any of the jokes. Giving him a starring role would lift it considerably. Still, even though it felt somewhat random and scattered, and a few characters such as the barman and the comedy booker weren't sharp enough, there was lots about it that was.

The real stand-up acts were great, a deadpan Phil Wang playing himself and saying he couldn't permit his live stand-up stuff to be filmed for a video because he had an exclusive deal with Dulux+ streaming, though he promised not all content was paint-based; some of it was "paint adjacent". Sam Campbell was funny, as were Kehma Bob and Jon Pointing. But some of the sillier surreal stuff with the usually sparkling Ellie White and Natasha Demetriou as useless PR people making people sit on hay bales and bring a cow into the club felt like they were trying too hard. Still, it's early days. Given the talent involved here I'm confident it will get better.

BBC



Cara Delevingne donated an orgasm to science in Planet Sex

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell — Firewall
Radio 4, 2.15pm

An unusual Radio 4 drama, this adaptation of James Swallow's book, inspired by Tom Clancy's *Splinter Cell* video game and dramatised by Sebastian Baczkiewicz, *above*, in eight parts, uses binaural recording, where two microphones are arranged to create a 3D stereo-sound sensation. It means that we are plunged from the very first second into the tension of a mission overseen by Sam Fisher, a Fourth Echelon agent in the National Security Agency's covert action division. You are advised to listen with headphones to create just the right sense of panic, confusion, mystery and thrill.

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Anna Cunningham with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson. Covering the big political stories of the week **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive. Friday's headlines and discussions **7.00** Michael Portillo. Cultured conversation and political interview **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce. Ruth Jones picks her Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage. A selection of hits from across the pop music genre **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits. Feelgood party classics **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony. A mix of soulful house and lyrical garage tunes **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop (r) **1.00am** Barry Humphries: Barry's Wireless Christmas (r) **3.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Hannah French presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests, the Friday poem and Bach Before Seven in Berlin: musical postcards from locations in the city that were important to the composer
9.00 Essential Classics
Tom McKinney plays the best in classical music with discoveries and surprises rubbing shoulders with familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week: Chopin (1810-1849)
Donald Macleod explores how Chopin's romantic relationship with George Sand, and one of the most productive creative relationships in the romantic world, broke down and came to a fractious end with Sand making the details of their problems public in a thinly veiled novel. Chopin (Mazurka No 51 in F minor, Op.68 No 4; Nocturnes, Op.55 in F minor & E-flat; Cello Sonata in G minor, Op.65 — II. Scherzo; Barcarolle in F-sharp, Op.60; Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor, Op.11 — II. Romance; and Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op.64 No 2)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
The Consone Quartet, Radio 3 New Generation Artists, perform. Haydn (String Quartet in D, op 50 no 6); and Mendelssohn (String Quartet in F minor, op 80) (r)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Ian Skelly rounds up his week of highlights from Bavaria with symphonies by Mozart and Strauss and with stormy music from Rossini and CPE Bach. Elgar (*Three Bavarian Dances* — No 3); Rossini (Overture — *William Tell*); Vivaldi (*"Tito Manlio"* RV738; *"Non mi vuoi te crudele"*; and *"Vitellio"*); Delius (*Walk To The Paradise Garden*); CPE Bach (Quartet for Harpsichord, Flute & Viola in G, Wq 95); WA Mozart (Symphony No 25 in G minor); Christopher Graupner (*"Aminta, La contanza vince l'inganno"*; and *"Non esser pui si fiera"* — 1.29 + app); Vivaldi (*"L'Olypiade"* RV725; and *"Ne giorni tuoi felici"*); and Richard Strauss (Symphony No 2 in F minor)
4.30 The Listening Service
Tom Service lifts the lid on Handel's *Messiah*, revealing why the composer had to change its name for the first London performance (r)
5.00 In Tune
A selection of music, arts news and guests. Including **5.00**, **6.00** News
7.00 In Tune Mixtape
An eclectic non-stop mix of music, featuring old favourites together with lesser-known gems, and a few surprises thrown in for good measure
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Edward Gardner conducts the London Philharmonic in Tippett's oratorio *A Child of Our Time*, featuring the London Adventist Chorale, and the Soloists of the Royal College of Music. Presented by Martin Handley. Vaughan Williams (Serenade to Music); and Tippett (*A Child of Our Time*)
10.00 The Verb
Ian McMillan and the Poetry Book Club audience are joined by Douglas Dunn to discuss his debut collection Terry Street and his latest, *The Noise of a Fly*
10.45 The Essay: Listen Harder
Sophie Stone speaks about being the child of addicts and finding a safe place to express emotions in the theatre. She talks about her relationship to her absent father and her unspoken grief held in silence after his death
11.00 Late Junction
Verity Sharp shares the fruits of our latest improvised collaboration session, between Ainu folk musician OKI and multi-instrumentalist and composer cktrl
1.00am Tearjerker with Sigrid
2.00 Downtime Symphony (r)
3.00 Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Justin Webb and Mishal Husain
8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs
Lauren Laverne talks to the film-maker Baz Luhrmann (10/15) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: How to Stand Up to a Dictator
By Maria Ressa (5/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Magazine presented by Anita Rani
11.00 Britain's Communist Thread
The ongoing influence of communism within British culture. Last in the series
11.30 Unite
Tony takes Imogen away for a romantic weekend, so Gideon and Ashley take the opportunity to have a party (3/5) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 FDR's Four Freedoms
David Reynolds examines a famous speech by President Franklin D Roosevelt (r)
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Understand: The Economy
Explaining what has happened to inequality over the last 100 years in the UK (10/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell — Firewall
By James Swallow. Action-adventure based on the iconic video game *Splinter Cell*. Dramatised by Sebastian Baczkiewicz and starring Andonis Anthony and Daisy Head. ***See Radio Choice*** (1/8)
2.45 Why Do We Do That? (6/10)
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time
Experts answer listeners' queries
3.45 From Fact to Fiction
A writer creates a fictional response to a story in the week's news (4/4)
4.00 Last Word
4.30 Feedback
With Andrea Catherwood (8/11)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Now Show
With guest comedians Michelle De Swarte and Jamie MacDonald. Last in the series
7.00 The Archers
A calming voice is needed in a crisis, and Rex questions himself
7.15 Add to Playlist
A musical journey of discovery (9/9)
8.00 Any Questions?
From the Plaza Cinema, Skipton
8.50 A Point of View
9.00 Past Forward: A Century of Sound
Omnibus episode (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Beautiful World, Where Are You
By Sally Rooney (10/10) (r)
11.00 Americast
Analysis of stories breaking in the US
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: How to Stand Up to a Dictator (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Parsley Sidings **8.30** Married **9.00** Act Your Age **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** Barry Lyndon **11.00** The Reunion **11.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **12.00** Parsley Sidings **12.30pm** Married **1.00** Two Way Cut **1.30** The Mind of Mr JG Reeder **2.00** Packing My Library **2.15** Ordinary Heroes **2.30** The Etymology of Entomology **3.00** Barry Lyndon **4.00** Act Your Age **4.30** Bleak Expectations **5.00** Romance and Adventure **5.30** Now You're Asking with Marian Keyes and Tara Flynn **6.00** Psycho **6.15** The Haunting of Hill House **6.30** Musical Genes **7.00** Parsley Sidings **7.30** Married. Robin, Leslie and Dirk end up in Texas **8.00** Two Way Cut. Last in the series **8.30** The Mind of Mr JG Reeder. The Strange Case. Thriller by Edgar Wallace. Last in the series **9.00** The Reunion. A reunion of five contributors to the first series of *Doctor Who* in 1963 **9.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories. The flying skills of hummingbirds **10.00** Comedy Club: Now You're Asking with Marian Keyes and Tara Flynn. Marian Keyes and Tara offer humorous tips on fancying your boss **10.30** Mitch Benn's Crimes Against Music. The band get stranded at Stansted airport **11.00** Mark Thomas: The Manifesto. Last in the series **11.30** James Acaster's Perfect Sounds

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am The Big Green Money Show **5.30** Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** Elis James and John Robins **2.00** World Cup 2022 **3.00** World Cup 2022. Live commentary from Group H of the World Cup, featuring Ghana v Uruguay and South Korea v Portugal (Kick-off **3.00**) **5.00** World Cup 2022 **5.30** 5 Live News **6.30** World Cup 2022 **7.00** World Cup 2022. Live commentary from Group G of the World Cup, featuring Serbia v Switzerland and Cameroon v Brazil (Kick-off **7.00**) **9.00** World Cup 2022 **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Hayley Hassall

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** World Cup GameDay Warm Up **1.00pm** Live World Cup GameDay: South Korea v Portugal (Kick-off **3.00**) **6.00** Live World Cup GameDay: Cameroon v Brazil (Kick-off **7.00**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored Best Of **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Live: James Whale **1.00am** Martin Kelner

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am The Remix with Chris Hawkins **5.30** Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** The People's Party with Afrodeutsche **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** 6 Music's Emo Forever **2.00** Focus Beats **4.00** Ambient Focus

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Steve Denyer **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Joe Clay

Granite Harbour
BBC1, 7pm

Top pick

Aberdeen, aka the Granite City, is the setting for this promising new police procedural that has landed in an odd time slot owing to the rescheduling of *Strictly* because of the World Cup (the Saturday night live show is on tonight at 8pm). Romario Simpson, who had a blink-and-you'll-miss-it role in the excellent *Star Wars* spin-off *Andor*, stars as Davis Lindo, a new recruit to Police Scotland who has just completed his final tour with the Royal Military Police. He is part of a scheme that fast-tracks Commonwealth soldiers to retrain in the emergency services. The Jamaican-born Lindo is a "proud Commonwealth citizen" whose ultimate dream is to become a detective at New Scotland Yard, but first he must adjust to life as a trainee cop in Aberdeen. Helping him to adapt is DCI Tara "Bart" Bartlett (Hannah Donaldson), a streetwise native who prefers flying solo. You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to deduce that this unlikely partnership might have a few teething problems — which come to pass as they get stuck into their first case, the murder of a prominent player in the oil industry. It's not reinventing the genre but it's decent, and the relationship between the two leads has a nice spark. *Granite Harbour* is part of BBC Scotland's successful co-commissioning drama strategy, which includes Neil Forsyth's superb *Guilt* and *Mayflies*, an adaptation of Andrew O'Hagan's novel, showing on BBC1 at Christmas.

Live World Cup 2022
BBC/ITV, from 2.30pm

The final round of group H matches pits South Korea against Portugal (BBC1, 2.30pm; kick-off 3pm), while Ghana take on Uruguay (BBC2, 2.45pm; kick-off 3pm). Portugal are definitely through to the last 16, but the other three sides could all qualify, depending on results. Group G concludes this evening, with Cameroon v Brazil (ITV1, 6.15pm; kick-off 7pm), and Serbia facing Switzerland (ITV4, 6.15pm, kick-off 7pm). Brazil have already qualified, but as with group H, all the other teams remain in contention if they can win their matches.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live. Magazine show **10.00** Expert Witness. Handwriting analysis helps find a killer on the run. Last in the series (AD) **10.30** Claimed and Shamed. A year after a house fire a second claim comes in (r) (AD) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. The progress of properties in Wolverhampton, Great Yarmouth and Cheshire (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Eric Knowles and the teams shop for antiques in Guildford (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Mel's actions send shockwaves throughout the station, Princess waits for an important call and Valerie gets some big news (AD) **2.15** Planet Earth: A Monkey's Tale. A baby macaque faces predators and a troop of rival monkeys in Sri Lanka (r) **2.30** Live MOTD — Fifa World Cup 2022: South Korea v Portugal (Kick-off **3.00**). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the final Group H match for both sides, at Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar. With commentary from Vicki Sparks and Danny Murphy. *See Viewing Guide* **5.15** Pointless. Quiz show hosted by Alexander Armstrong, with Richard Osman (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (r) (AD) **8.00** Sign Zone: Trawlermen — Hunting the Catch (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** BBC News **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK **1.00 FILM: Heart of the Holidays (PG, TVM, 2020)** A stockbroker returns to her home town for Christmas and encounters her high-school sweetheart, who she left to pursue her career. Festive drama starring Vanessa Lengies **2.25** Beechgrove Repotted. A special edition on allotments (r) **2.45** Live MOTD — Fifa World Cup 2022: Ghana v Uruguay (Kick-off **3.00**). Gabby Logan presents as the sides' Group H campaign concludes at Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah with a place in the last 16 possibly beckoning. With commentary being provided by Steve Wilson and Dion Dublin. *See Viewing Guide* **5.15** Flog It! At the University of Nottingham, experts Charles Hanson and Michael Baggott find a rare wax doll and a 17th-century tortoiseshell box. Paul Martin presents (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Stephen Bailey, Charlie Brooks, Ria Lina and John Thomson take part **6.30** Strictly: It Takes Two. Takes a look at the preparations for tonight's quarter-final

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. A lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. Daily magazine, featuring a mix of chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Great British Adventure. The chef celebrates 1940s to 1960s motorsport at the Goodwood Revival (r) (AD) **2.30** Tenable. Five family members take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Hosted by Warwick Davis (r) **3.30** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **4.30** The Chase. Contestants from Bath, Newcastle, London and one originally from Cardiff, take part in the game show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **5.30** Regional News; Weather **5.45** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Bobby Seagull is in dictionary corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **9.00** Frasier (r) (AD) **10.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. The chef heads to West Nyack, New York, to come to the aid of a family-run Mexican restaurant that is suffering a financial crisis (r) **11.25** Channel 4 News Summary **11.30** Château DIY. Owners have a mountain to climb in the garden ahead of the picnic (r) (AD) **12.30pm** Steph's Packed Lunch. Weekday magazine show hosted by Steph McGovern **2.10** Countdown. Stephen K Amos is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple seek a holiday home in Charente, south-west France (r) **4.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. The Garners and the Rodriguezes revisit previous clients. Last in the series (r) **5.00** Four in a Bed. The B&Bers challenge each other about the feedback they have received (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. A jewellery entrepreneur serves a menu of simple and nutritious food (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart falls for the wrong girl (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Goldie asks Verity for help in building an official case against Bobby before she goes to the police. Juliet continues to push Peri away (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **12.30pm** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain, swapping the damp and grey conditions of the UK for a new "cheap-as-chips" life in the Spanish sun (r) **1.25** 5 News at Lunchtime. The latest updates **1.30 FILM: Christmas Together (PG, TVM, 2020)** A woman leaves New York for LA after a break-up and falls in love while renting the guest house of a young father. Drama starring Vivica A Fox and Marc Herrmann **3.15 FILM: Sugar Plum Christmas (PG, TVM, 2021)** A ballerina returns to her home town at Christmas to tutor a student who has a flare for Latin dance. Festive drama starring Jamie Gray Hyder and Ektor Rivera **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Holidaying with Jane McDonald: The Caribbean. Jane heads to St Lucia, taking a trip to the heart of the rainforest to get view of the flora and fauna from above the canopy, and going on a boat ride from the north to the south of the island en route to an outdoor hot tub heated by a volcano (r)



Undercover at Boohoo: The human cost of fast fashion

After reports of appalling working conditions in 2020, Boohoo had made a big show of trying to do better. So has it? A Times reporter goes undercover at one of their warehouses to find out.

Listen to the Stories of our times podcast on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts.

BRITISH PODCAST AWARDS GOLD 2022

7PM – 11PM

BBC1
7.00 **Granite Harbour** New series. Lance Corporal Davis Lindo dreams of being a detective at New Scotland Yard. However, he finds himself being sent to train as a detective constable in the north-east of Scotland. Thriller starring Romario Simpson. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3) (AD)

8.00 **Strictly Come Dancing: Musicals Special** Fleur, Hamza, Helen, Kym, Molly and Will take to the floor for the musicals-themed quarter-final. Plus, appearances from Marisha Wallace, Ivano Turco and Trevor Dion Nicholas. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

9.05 **MasterChef: The Professionals** The semi-finals conclude with the second group of four chefs facing two tough challenges as they try to win a place in Finals Week and move one step closer to lifting the trophy (AD)

10.05 **BBC News at Ten**

10.35 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.45 **The Graham Norton Show** The host reviews trending news stories before inviting another group of Hollywood A-listers and British television big shots to chat about what they have been up to recently

11.35 **MOTD: Fifa World Cup 2022 Highlights** Action featuring Cameroon v Brazil, Serbia v Switzerland, Ghana v Uruguay and South Korea v Portugal

BBC2
7.30 **The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

8.00 **Gardeners' World Winter Specials** New series. The team celebrate the joy that the gardening year brings, with a selection of new stories. Monty Don harvests his favourite winter veg, and Joe Swift meets television presenter and houseplant fan AJ Odudu (1/4)

9.00 **Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen** The historian examines Agatha's mysterious disappearance in December 1926 and reveals the influence this episode had on her writing (2/3) (AD)

10.00 **QI** Sandi Toksvig offers quite interesting facts about thrills and spills with Nish Kumar, Mark Steel, Suzi Ruffell, and series regular Alan Davies

10.30 **Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events with Kirsty Wark

11.05 **How To with John Wilson** New series. Return of the comedy documentary (1/6) (AD)

11.35 **How To with John Wilson** When confronted by the overwhelming and mysterious world of wine, John Wilson attempts to master his senses (2/6)

ITV1
6.15 **Live Fifa World Cup 2022: Cameroon v Brazil** (Kick-off **7.00**). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the third and final Group G fixture for both sides, which comes from Lusail Stadium in Qatar. These nations have met twice before during the World Cup, first at USA '94 and once again during the 2014 tournament, which was held in Brazil. The five-time world champions comfortably won both of those matches, and will surely come into this encounter as favourites. Ian Wright, Karen Carney and Joe Cole provide match analysis, with commentary from Sam Matterface and Lee Dixon. *See Viewing Guide*

9.15 **It'll Be Alright on the Night** New series. Celebrating 45 years of the classic bloopers show, David Walliams introduces clangers from *Coronation Street, Bargain Hunt, Pointless, Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *The Real Housewives of Cheshire*. Chaos also unfolds for the teams on *BBC News, This Morning* and *Love Island* (AD)

10.20 **ITV News; Weather**

10.50 **Regional News**

11.05 **The NFL Show** Laura Woods is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present action from the opening match of week 13 between New England Patriots and Buffalo Bills. Plus, a look back at the major headlines from week 12 and a look ahead to the weekend's fixtures

Channel 4
7.00 **Channel 4 News**

7.30 **Unreported World** Seyi Rhodes reports from Kenya, tensions over food are getting deadly as the Horn of Africa suffers a bad drought (AD)

8.00 **Grayson's Art Club: The Exhibition** A special episode following Grayson's Art Club's third national exhibition, hosted in Birmingham. Grayson Perry goes behind the scenes at the Midlands Art Centre and experiences the city's arts scene. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

9.00 **Gogglebox** The regular gaggle of family and friends gather in front of the television once more to share their thoughts on a selection of shows from the past week, with the cameras turned back on them so viewers can see and hear their lively chat

10.00 **The Last Leg** Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days (AD)

11.05 **The Big Narstie Show** Big-name guests, music performances, hilarious sketches and interviews as MC and Mo Gilligan welcome Mel B, Jordan Stephens, Nabil Abdulrashid, Billy Billingham and Alhan Gençay (4/6)

11.55 **Spaced** Daisy and Tim throw a housewarming party (2/7) (r) (AD)

Channel 5
7.00 **Susan Calman's Grand Day Out** The comedian explores the historic city of Oxford and the Chilterns, an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She gets her bearings at one of the best preserved 17th-century windmills in the world at Brill (6/7)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **The World's Most Expensive Christmas Cruise** Yuletide life on the world's most expensive cruise ship, the *Seven Seas Explorer*. It might be 30 degrees as the ship basks in Miami, the Cayman Islands and Mexico, but that doesn't prevent Cruise Director from donning his Santa suit (r)

9.00 **Live The Big Fight: Josh Kelly v Troy Williamson** Coverage of the bout for the British Super Welterweight Championship, held at Utilita Arena in Newcastle. Sunderland's Kelly suffered his first career defeat when he was stopped by David Avanesyan in an attempt at claiming the European title, but he has bounced back with victories over Peter Kramer and Lucas Brian Ariel Bastida. However, he faces a tough test against reigning champion Williamson of Darlington, who is unbeaten in his 20 professional contests to date, with a draw against Jack Flatley in 2018 the only slight blemish on his record

11.05 **Rise of the Footsoldier (18, 2007)** A former football hooligan from Essex rises to become a member of one of the country's most powerful crime syndicates, culminating in the shooting of three drug dealers on an isolated country lane. Fact-based crime thriller with Ricci Harnett and Craig Fairbrass

Late

BBC1
12.20am MOTD World Cup Top 10: Upsets Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Micah Richards count down the greatest upsets in World Cup history **12.50** MOTD: Fifa World Cup Replay 2022. Cameroon v Brazil. A chance to see the third and final Group G fixture for both sides, from Lusail Stadium in Qatar **2.35-6.00** BBC News

BBC2
12.00 Frankie Boyle's New World Order Trying to make sense of the modern world (r) **12.35am** Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen (r) (AD) **1.35** Sign Zone: The Secret Genius of Modern Life (r) (AD, SL) **2.35** Iolo: A Wild Life (r) (SL) **3.05-3.50** Louis Theroux Interviews — Bear Grylls (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.00 Teleshopping 3.00am Keeping Up with the Aristocrats. Princess Olga Romanoff hosts tour groups at Provender House (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape designed to calm the mind **5.05-6.00** James Martin's Great British Adventure. The chef's countrywide tour brings him to London (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
12.25am Spaced (r) (AD) **1.50 FILM: Misery (18, 1990)** A successful author is freed from a near-fatal car crash, but is horrified to discover his rescuer is a psychopathic fan. Thriller starring James Caan, Kathy Bates and Lauren Bacall **3.45** Kirstie's Handmade Christmas (r) **4.00-6.15** Come Dine with Me (r)

Channel 5
1.25am The LeoVegas Live Casino Show 3.25 Eggheads. Jeremy Vine hosts a double bill (r) **4.15** The Funny Thing About Growing Up. Johnny Vegas presents an irreverent look back at the process of growing into adulthood (r) (SL) **5.05** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.25** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.50-6.00** Pip and Posy (r) (SL)

Three Pines
Amazon

Alfred Molina leads the cast of this adaptation of the Chief Inspector Gamache novel series by Louise Penny. The contemplative and kindly Gamache sees things that others do not — "the light between the cracks, the mythic in the mundane and the evil in the seemingly ordinary" — which comes in handy when investigating a series of murders in Three Pines, a seemingly idyllic village in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. It's like a darker *Midsomer Murders*, with the cosy Québécois village setting at odds with the horrible murders.

Slow Horses
Apple TV+

A second series for the hit espionage drama based on Mick Herron's novels about Jackson Lamb (Gary Oldman), the acerbic intelligence chief who presides over a team of misfits in a dumping-ground department of MI5 called Slough House. In the first series Lamb and his team proved they weren't as washed up as everyone thought. Now they must try to neutralise a new threat as Cold War secrets resurface and threaten to bring carnage to the streets of London. The fine cast includes Kristin Scott Thomas, Saskia Reeves, Freddie Fox, Samuel West, Aimee-Ffion Edwards and Jonathan Pryce.

Grayson's Art Club: The Exhibition
Channel 4, 8pm

The art club started during lockdown by Grayson Perry and his wife, Philippa, is putting on its third national exhibition. This special goes behind the scenes with Perry at the Midlands Arts Centre in Birmingham as the curators put the exhibition together and Perry explores the vibrant city with the Beckham-baiting comedian Joe Lycett. Perry also travels around the country to meet some of the nation's amateur artists whose work will be on show alongside works from the Perrys and Lycett.

Film Lady Chatterley's Lover
Netflix

Another Lady Chatterley is here — and this one is subtle and moving. As Mellors, Jack O'Connell has never been better, while Emma Corrin puts in a sympathetic and ingenuous turn as Constance Chatterley. (15, 2022)

Sky Max

6.00am Arrow (r) **8.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **9.00** The Blacklist (r) (AD) **10.00** Supergirl (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **3.00** The Blacklist (r) (AD) **4.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **4.55** Supergirl (r) **5.50** Dating No Filter (r) (AD) **6.20** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **7.15** NCIS: New Orleans. Pride is the target of a bomb at a marine corps gala (r) **8.10** Rob & Romesh vs West End. The comedians try to crack the world of musicals (r) (AD) **9.15** A League of Their Own. Sport-based comedy quiz with Jamie Vardy, Chelcee Grimes, Jimmy Carr and Kerry Godliman (r) (AD) **10.15** Resident Alien. Harry comes face-to-face with his greatest enemy. Last in the series **11.15** The Russell Howard Hour (r) **12.00** Banshee. Drama starring Antony Starr (r) (AD) **1.10am** The Force: Manchester (r) **2.05** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Storm City (r) (AD) **7.45** Gomorrah (r) **10.00** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) **1.20** True Detective (r) (AD) **3.30** Gomorrah (r) **5.45** True Blood. Sookie and Lafayette struggle to decide what to do about Tara (r) **6.50** True Blood. Bill and Eric are interrogated for information about rogue vampires (r) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Bran clings to life as Ned prepares to head south — only for the youngster to come under attack again. Tyrion accompanies Jon as he travels to the Wall (r) (AD) **9.00** The Great Game. All-out war breaks out between Elena and Dino as Kirillov tries to take possession of ISG's precious land. Later, Assari makes a tactical error. In Italian (5/8) (r) **10.05** The Great Game. Dino and Corso hijack Quintana's AC Milan deal (6/8) (r) **11.10** I Know This Much Is True. Dominick returns to work even though he has not fully recovered after his accident (4/6) (r) (AD) **12.15am** The Wire. Crime thriller (r) **3.30** In Treatment (r) **4.00** Storm City (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am Fish Town (r) **7.00** Discovering: Ed Harris (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** Janet Jackson (r) (AD) **10.00** Veleno: The Town of Lost Children (r) **11.10** The Eighties (r) (AD) **12.00** Laurel and Hardy: Their Lives and Magic (r) (AD) **2.00pm** Music Box (r) (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Ed Harris (r) **5.00** The Directors (r) **6.00** Janet Jackson. Profile (4/4) (r) (AD) **7.00** The Eighties. The impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's rise to power (7/8) (r) (AD) **7.50** Veleno: The Town of Lost Children (r) **9.00** Brazil 2002. Following the Brazilian national team through the 2002 World Cup (r) **10.50** Italia 90: Four Weeks That Changed the World. The latter stages of the event (3/3) (r) **11.50** Dark Horses: Italy's World Cup Triumph. It's heartbreak for Germany (3/4) (r) **12.50am FILM: Lennox — The Untold Story (15, 2020)** The life story of the heavyweight boxer (AD) **2.50** My Icon: Michael Holding (r) (AD) **3.00** Master of Light (r) **4.45** My Icon: Chris Powell (r) (AD) **5.00** The Eighties (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Christmas at the Castle **7.15** Andrea Bocelli: Love in Portofino **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Christopher Plummer **12.00** The Grapes of Wrath: The Ghost of Modern America **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Film Noir **3.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2020 **4.00** Discovering: Jeff Bridges. A profile of the actor **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** Live from the Artists Den. Featuring the English singer-songwriter Corinne Bailey Rae **8.15** Eric Clapton: Nothing But the Blues. The musical journey of the guitarist (AD) **10.30** Isle of Wight Festival 2022. Kasabian's Saturday headline set on the Main Stage **11.45** Isle of Wight Festival 2022. Happy Mondays' performance in the Big Top **12.45am** The Who: Live at Kilburn 1977 **2.10** Suzi Q **4.10** Death Songbook **5.10** Video Killed the Radio Star **5.35** Chicago: Music Icons

Sky Main Event

6.00am Live Test Cricket: Pakistan v England. Coverage of day two of the first Test in the three-match series, at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium **12.30pm** Test Cricket Bitesize **12.45** Live Abu Dhabi T10: Delhi Bulls v Chennai Braves. The 10-over match from Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium **2.00** Live Abu Dhabi T10: Northern Warriors v Morrisville Samp Army **4.15** Live Abu Dhabi T10: New York Strikers v Team Abu Dhabi. Coverage of the 10-over match **6.30** Live PGA Tour Golf: The Hero World Challenge. Day two in The Bahamas **9.30** Live Mosconi Cup Pool. Coverage of day three in Las Vegas, where teams representing the United States and Europe face each other **11.30** World Cup Report. A round-up of all the day's World Cup news **12.00** World Cup Report **12.30am** Live NBA Basketball: Milwaukee Bucks v Los Angeles Lakers (Tip-off **12.30**) **3.00** Live DP World Tour Golf: The ISPS HANDA Australian Open **4.45** Live Test Cricket: Pakistan v England



TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** Jeremy Kyle. All the latest from Parliament, and exclusive interviews with big-name guests **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and dedicated time for your calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. The host guides you through the big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz; big names, exclusive interviews **7.00** Plank of the Week. Mike Graham presents the ultimate panel show where the guests get to nominate their Plank of the Week **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored Best Of. The host presents his verdict on the week's global events **9.00** Football, B****y Hell! Andy Goldstein presents a brand new live football chat show with big name guests **10.00** First Edition. A look at tomorrow's news **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored Best Of **12.00** Live: James Whale **1.00am** Vanessa Feltz **2.00** Jeremy Kyle Live **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored Best Of **4.00** The Talk **5.00** Cristo. Wake up to the news that matters to you

BBC4

7.00pm Top of the Pops. Tony Dortie introduces the edition first shown on December 2 1993. Featuring performances by M-People, U2, Björk, Mr Blobby, East 17, Take That and Meat Loaf **7.30** Top of the Pops. Performances by Bad Boys Inc, Prince, the Bee Gees and Gabrielle **8.00** Top of the Pops. Featuring Eddy Grant, Jona Lewie, AC/DC, the Boomtown Rats, Abba and St Winifred's School Choir **8.30** Top of the Pops. With Status Quo, Angry Anderson, Phil Collins and New Order **9.00** Elaine Paige at the BBC. A selection of archive performances by the West End star, including *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*, *Memory*, and *I Know Him So Well* **10.00** Elaine Paige: I'm Still Here. Highlights of the West End star's farewell concert at the Royal Albert Hall, in which she sings classics from her career, with the BBC Concert Orchestra **11.00** Evita: The Making of a Superstar. Suzy Klein travels deep into the world of musical theatre and the colourful landscapes of Argentina, to discover the story behind one of the West End's most celebrated characters **12.00-3.25** Peaky Blinders. Triple bill (AD)

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: The Call of Justice (12, 1936) (b/w) **7.15 FILM: Behind the Headlines (PG, 1956)** (b/w) **8.35 FILM: The Arsenal Stadium Mystery (U, 1939)** (b/w) **10.20 FILM: The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan (U, 1953) 12.25pm FILM: Meet Mr Callaghan (U, 1954)** Crime drama (b/w) **2.10 FILM: Man Hunt (PG, 1941)** Second World War thriller with Walter Pidgeon (b/w) **4.10 FILM: Every Day's a Holiday (U, 1965)** Musical comedy starring John Leyton **6.00 FILM: Fantastic Voyage (U, 1966)** Sci-fi adventure starring Raquel Welch **8.00** The Outer Limits (b/w) **9.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **9.05 FILM: Next of Kin (15, 1982)** Horror starring Jacki Kerin **10.50** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **10.55 FILM: The Haunted Strangler (12, 1958)** Thriller starring Boris Karloff (b/w) **12.35am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **12.40 FILM: The Awful Dr Orloff (15, 1962) 2.20** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **2.25 FILM: Kiss of Death (PG, 1947)** (b/w) **4.25 FILM: Do You Know This Voice? (PG, 1964)** (b/w)

Film4

11.00am The Last Blitzkrieg (12, 1959) Second World War drama starring Van Johnson (b/w) **12.45pm Santa Fe Passage (U, 1955)** Western adventure starring John Payne **2.35 Stalag 17 (PG, 1953)** Second World War PoW drama starring William Holden (b/w) (AD) **5.00 The Long Arm (U, 1956)** Crime thriller starring Jack Hawkins and Dorothy Alison (b/w) **6.55 Risen (12, 2016)** A Roman officer is charged with investigating reports of Jesus' resurrection in the aftermath of the crucifixion. Historical drama starring Joseph Fiennes **9.00 Under Siege (15, 1992)** A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure with Steven Seagal **11.05 Planet Terror (18, 2007)** A disaster at a military base releases a toxic gas, turning anyone exposed to it into ravenous flesh-eating mutants. Sci-fi thriller starring Rose McGowan **1.10am-3.05 The Cabin in the Woods (15, 2012)** Five students in a remote house are attacked by supernatural forces, but discover something far stranger is at work. Horror with Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth (AD)

More4

8.55am Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.55** Escape to the Château: DIY. Stephanie finishes her mother Isobel's apartment (AD) **6.55** Escape to the Château. The start of the wedding season sees Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree at their busiest (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Following the work of a coup;e as they continue to build a handcrafted, five-bedroom house in Herefordshire, 10 years in the making (10/10) (AD) **9.00** Astrid: Murder in Paris. Foul play is suspected when the body of a deceased man vanishes just before his funeral service is due to be held. Stars Sara Mortensen. In French **10.15** 24 Hours in A&E. A 12-year-old is airlifted to St George's after he is struck by a motorcycle on his way home from school (AD) **11.15** 24 Hours in A&E. Junior doctor Silas works his first ever shift in resus (AD) **12.20am** Rescue: Extreme Medics (AD) **1.25** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.25** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.25-3.55** Food Unwrapped (AD)

ITV2

6.00am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** The Cabins **8.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **10.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** Rolling in It (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Chuck. Action comedy starring Zachary Levi **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase: Christmas Special. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show (AD) **7.00** Dress to Impress. Three guys battle it out to win a blind date with a woman **8.00** Bob's Burgers. Bob secures a new meat provider who has big claims (AD) **8.30** Bob's Burgers. Bob and Linda get into trouble with their accountant (AD) **9.00 FILM: Wedding Crashers (15, 2005)** Two party-mad bachelors gatecrash nuptials in order to pick up women. Comedy starring Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn **11.25** Family Guy. Meg takes Stewie to see Santa at the shopping centre (AD) **11.55** Family Guy. Meg and Quagmire date (AD) **12.25am** American Dad! (AD) **1.20** The Stand Up Sketch Show **2.20** Hey Tracey! Comedy quiz hosted by Joel Dommett **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Coronation Street (AD) **7.00** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Man About the House **8.35** Maigret (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.50** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** A Touch of Frost. A body is fished out of the river (AD) **6.00** Heartbeat. A spate of vandalism appears connected to Lord Ashfordly's godson (AD) **7.00** Heartbeat. After Joe's uniform goes missing Geoff admits his Panda car was stolen, leading George to suspect an old adversary of deliberately stirring up trouble (AD) **8.00** Doc Martin. Martin's medical career remains under scrutiny (1/8) (AD) **9.00** Doc Martin. The medic has to complete three refresher courses (2/8) (AD) **10.00** Bancroft. Detective Superintendent Bancroft is faced with a blast from the past (AD) **11.00** Bancroft. The superintendent executes a massive sting operation against Athif Kamara — but things do not run smoothly and she is forced to reveal secrets about her past (AD) **12.05am** A Touch of Frost (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Robin of Sherwood **7.00** The Champions **8.00** Magnum, PI (AD) **9.05** The Professionals (AD) **10.05** Minder (AD) **11.10** Robin of Sherwood **12.25pm** The Champions **1.25** Made in Britain (AD) **2.30** Magnum, PI (AD) **3.35** The Professionals (AD) **4.35** Minder. Arthur's wine supplier is mugged (AD) **5.45** Made in Britain. A look at craftsmen making acoustic guitars fit for the stars (AD) **6.15** Live Fifa World Cup 2022: Serbia v Switzerland (Kick-off **7.00**). Coverage of both sides' final Group G fixture, which takes place at Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar. *See Viewing Guide* **9.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite. Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling **11.05 FILM: US Marshals (15, 1998)** A federal agent hunts down an escaped murderer, but begins to doubt his quarry is really guilty. Thriller sequel starring Tommy Lee Jones, Wesley Snipes and Robert Downey Jr **1.40am** Auto Mundial **2.15** Motorsport Mundial. A round-up of motorsport news and action from around the world **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.00** 'Allo 'Allo! **7.45** All Creatures Great and Small **8.40** New Tricks (AD) **10.00** Classic Casualty (AD) **12.00** The Bill **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders **2.15** Dalziel & Pascoe (AD) **4.20** All Creatures Great and Small **5.20** As Time Goes By. Jean gets an invitation **6.00** 'Allo 'Allo! Michelle tries to steal the Fallen Madonna to boost the Resistance funds **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Billy promises the gang a barbecue in the great outdoors, insisting he knows the perfect location **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Alvin is seen with a mystery woman **8.00** Father Brown. Susie is drawn to the leader of the Church of Apollo (AD) **9.00** Father Brown. The clergyman investigates the mysterious deaths of two nuns (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The case of a murdered graffiti artist is reopened (5/10) (AD) **11.00** Hustle. The con-artists plan to rip off an auction house. Fay Ripley guest stars (4/6) **12.20am** 'Allo 'Allo! **1.00** As Time Goes By **1.35** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **2.30** A Place to Call Home **3.30** Classic EastEnders **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.00am Wartime Crime (AD) **8.00** Top Gear (AD) **9.00** The World at War **10.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution **11.00** Great British Railway Journeys **12.00** Bangers and Cash (AD) **2.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **3.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** The World at War **5.00** Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution. The first stages of genocide **6.00** Secret Nazi Bases. A structure nicknamed the Fly Trap or Hitler's Stonehenge **7.00** Abandoned Engineering. Forgotten relics from the defence of America's homeland, and a concrete behemoth on the French coast that proved invulnerable to attacks (6/8) (AD) **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. The world's most impressive disused railway bridges (3/6) (AD) **9.00** Bangers and Cash. Derek auctions off a Jensen Interceptor and a Jensen Healey (1/10) **10.00** Bangers and Cash. A customer considers a Morris Marina as a present for his wife (7/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. Relics from the defence of America's homeland (6/8) (AD) **12.00** Top Gear. With Olly Murs (AD) **1.00am** Wartime Crime (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 7.00pm Mini Matchmakers. Hopeful singletons look for love **7.30-8.00** B&B by the Sea. Deborah Meaden checks in to the B&B by the sea **9.05-10.05** Granite Harbour. New series. Thriller starring Romario Simpson. *See Viewing Guide* (AD) **10.45** The Blame Game **11.15** The Graham Norton Show **12.05am** MOTD: Fifa World Cup 2022 Highlights **12.50** MOTD World Cup Top 10: Upsets **1.20-2.30** MOTD: Fifa World Cup Replay 2022. A rerun of Cameroon v Brazil

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 11.15am-12.15pm Homes Under the Hammer (AD) **11.35** The Scotts. Vincent and Vonny throw a fancy dress ball, and Eilidh arrives in a cat costume (r) **12.05am** Sacked in the Morning (r) **12.35** MOTD: Fifa World Cup 2022 Highlights **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.25-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 9.00pm Two Doors Down (AD) **9.30-10.30** MasterChef: The Professionals. The semi-finals conclude (AD) **11.05** Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen. The historian examines Agatha's mysterious 1926 disappearance (AD) **12.05am** QI **12.35** How To with John Wilson (AD) **1.05-1.35** How To with John Wilson

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: 5.00pm Live Scrum V: Sharks v Ospreys (Kick-off **5.10**) **7.10-7.30** Coast (r) **11.05** Beacons: Short Films from Wales **11.25** Beacons: Short Films from Wales **11.35** How To with John Wilson (AD) **12.05am-12.35** How To with John Wilson

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.50pm-11.05 STV News **3.50am-5.05** Night Vision

BBC Scotland
7.00pm The Seven **8.00** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (r) (AD) **9.00** Selling Scotland (r) (AD) **10.00** Still Game. Jack and Victor try a new wonder drug (r) (AD) **10.30** Sacked in the Morning (r) **11.00** Best of Only an Excuse? (r) **11.30-12.00** Mirror Mirror (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Pip & Posy (r) **5.20** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.25** Sionnach agus Maigheach (Fox & Hare) (r) **5.40** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.45** Peataichean/Pets (r) **5.50** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Aithne air Ainmhidhean (All About Animals) (r) **6.20** @12 (r) **6.25** A' Chuil (r) **6.30** Ronia, Nighean a' Mheirlich/Ronja, the Robber's Daughter (r) **7.00** An Là (News) **7.25** Fraochy Bay (r) **7.30** Machair (r) **7.55** Dan (r) **8.00** Leugh Mi (Book Show) (r) **8.30** Fuine (Home Baking) (r) **9.00** Crodh Gàidhealach an Aird Bhàin: The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan (r) **10.15** Borgen (r) **11.15** An t-Inneal Espresso/The Espresso Machine (r) **11.30** Blas (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Timpo (r) **6.10** Jamborî (r) **6.20** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.35** Bach a Mawr (r) **6.50** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **7.00** Sali Mali (r) **7.05** Gwdihw (r) **7.20** Awyr Iach (r) **7.35** Sion y Chef (r) **7.50** Nos Da Cyw **8.00** Peppa (r) **8.05** Digbi Draig (r) **8.20** Rapsgaliwn (r) **8.35** Wibli Sochyn y Mochyn (r) **8.45** Loti Borloti (r) **9.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **9.10** Stiw (r) **9.20** Sbarc (r) **9.35** Pablo (r) **9.45** Cei Bach (r) **10.00** Timpo (r) **10.10** Jamborî (r) **10.20** Guto Gwningen (r) **10.35** Bach a Mawr (r) **10.50** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **11.00** Sali Mali (r) **11.05** Gwdihw (r) **11.20** Awyr Iach (r) **11.35** Sion y Chef (r) **11.50** Nos Da Cyw (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Cymru, Dad a Fi (r) (AD) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **1.30** Pobl a'u Gerddi (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Teulu'r Castell (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Jamborî (r) **4.10** Digbi Draig (r) **4.20** Gwdihw (r) **4.35** Nos Da Cyw (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Siwrne Ni (r) **5.05** Rygbi Pawb **5.20** Cic Byw **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Y Sioe Fwyd (r) **6.30** Ar Werth (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Bwrdd i Dri **8.25** Only Boys Aloud (AD) **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Y Wal Goch **10.00** Radio Fa'ma (r) **11.00-11.35** Hyd y Pwrs (r)

MindGames

Backgammon Chris Bray

Cyprus 2022

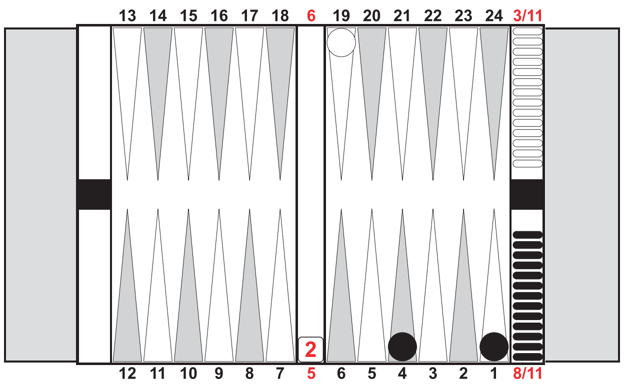
The Merit Open in Cyprus was back to full strength this year, and a record 555 players made the journey to Kyrenia to enjoy the climate and some excellent hospitality. Arda Findikoglu, widely recognised as the world's leading tournament director, and his team ensured that everybody had a great time.

There was a large British contingent, which had considerable success. Gaz Owen won one of the three Super Jackpots and Oliver Squire was runner-up in another. Will Cockerell and his partner, Josefin Bichler, won the doubles. Pride of place, however, goes to Jon Barnes who came third in the main event, which was won by Kare Aronsson of Sweden.

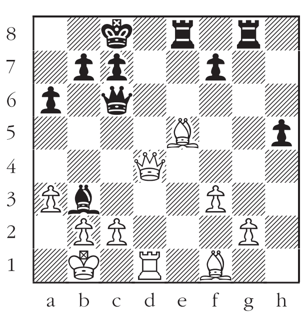
Jon has been a very strong player for a long time and is always in the top five of the UK rankings. He consistently played with a Performance Rating of around 3.0 during the tournament. By day he is a maths teacher, and his mental arithmetic skills proved very useful in this week's position, taken from one of his later-round matches. As Black he led 8-3 to 11 and owned the cube on 2.

At an even score this would be a crushing redouble and a trivial pass but at the skewed score of 8-3 things are somewhat different. By redoubling to 4, Jon would win more points than he needs to win the match, so in that respect the redouble is inefficient. Furthermore, if Jon rolls one of the seven numbers that do not bear off his two remaining checkers, his opponent will redouble to 8 and Black must drop, despite having exactly 25 per cent winning chances. In a money game you could take or drop White's redouble and you would be making the correct decision but with a big lead in a match you should drop.

Jon is well versed in match equity tables and the arithmetic for this position is very straightforward (at least for a maths teacher). Black should redouble and White has a very easy take because of the score. Luckily for Jon his opponent was not a mathematician, and he dropped the redouble. From 3-10 down his chances were tiny, and Jon wrapped up the match in the Crawford Game.



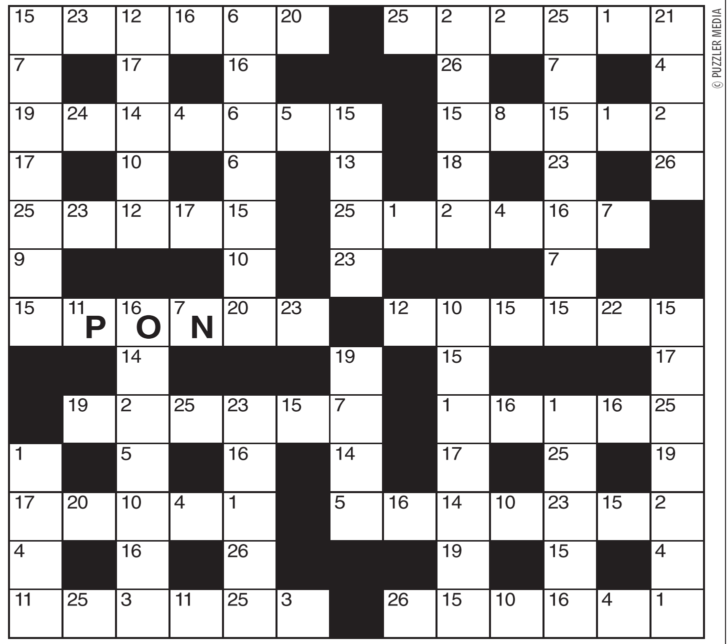
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is from Speelman-Basman, British Championship, Brighton 1980.

Michael Basman's style was based on creating as much confusion as possible. This game against Jon Speelman (who soon became a world championship semi-finalist) is a case in point. Black's plan is 1 cxb3 Rd8 so Speelman, doubtless bamboozled, played 1 Bd3 and lost. What should he have played instead?

Codeword No 4761

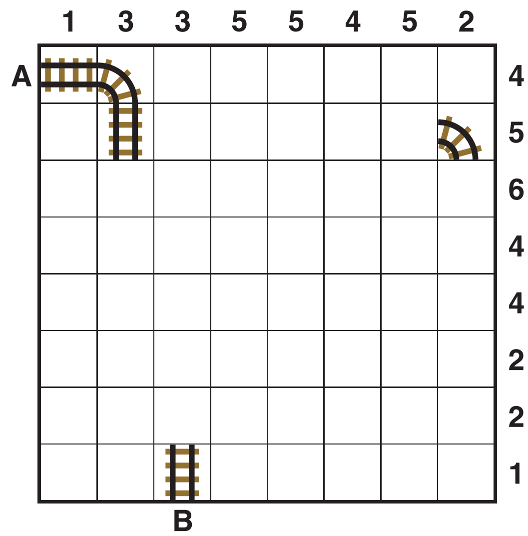




Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

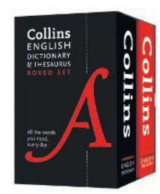
Train Tracks No 1801

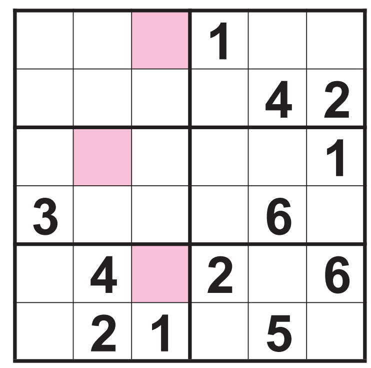


Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Win a Dictionary & Thesaurus

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6





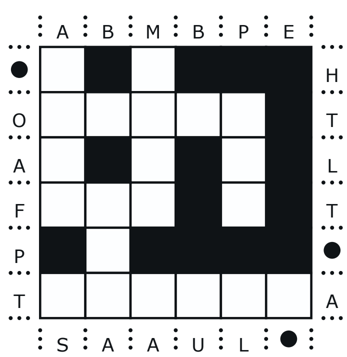
Winners will receive a *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*

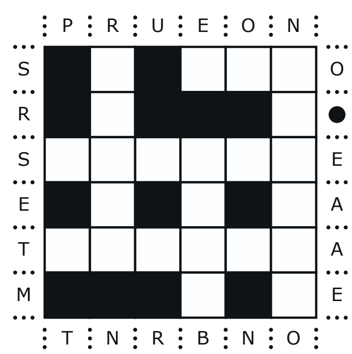
Solve the puzzle and text in the numbers in the three shaded boxes. Text TIMES followed by a space, then your three numbers, eg, TIMES 123, plus your name, address and postcode to 64343 (UK only), by midnight. Or enter by phone. Call 09012 925274 (ROI 1516 303 501) by midnight. Leave your three answer numbers (in any order) and your contact details.

Calls cost £1 (ROI €1.50) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Winners will be picked at random from all correct answers received. One draw per week. Lines close at midnight tonight. If you call or text after this time you will not be entered but will still be charged. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames? Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

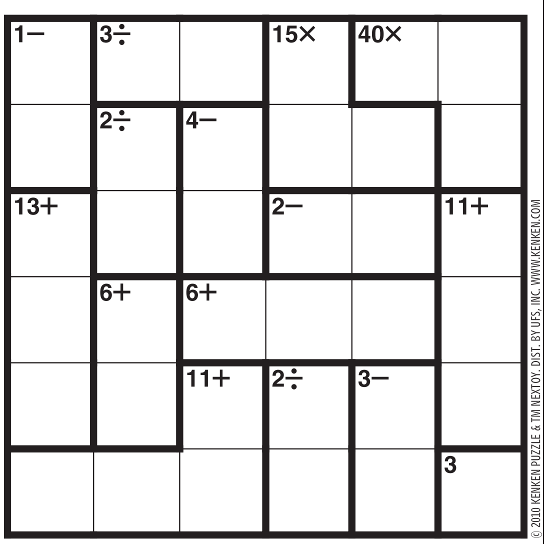
Lexica No 6639 No 6640





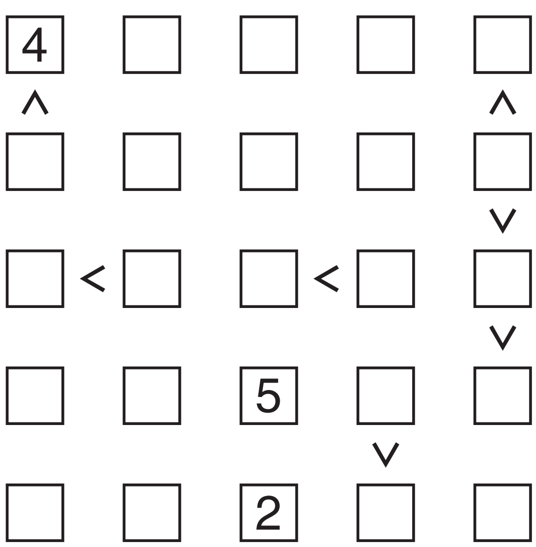
Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

KenKen Difficult No 5753



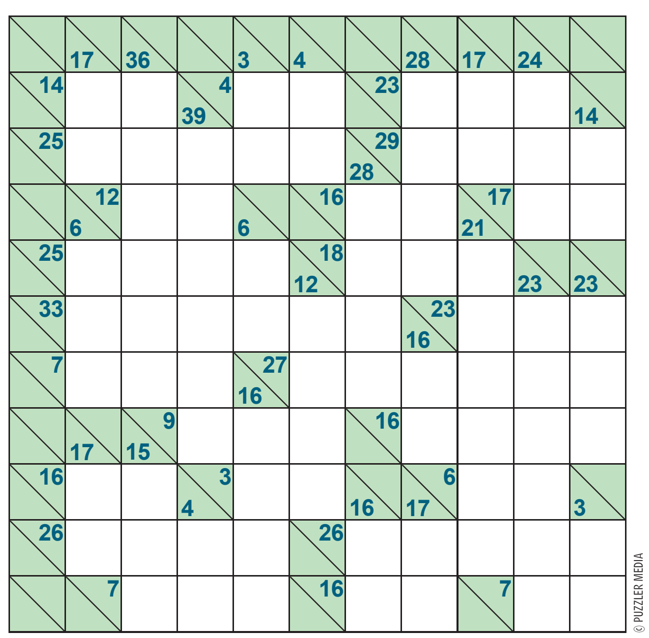
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4360



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

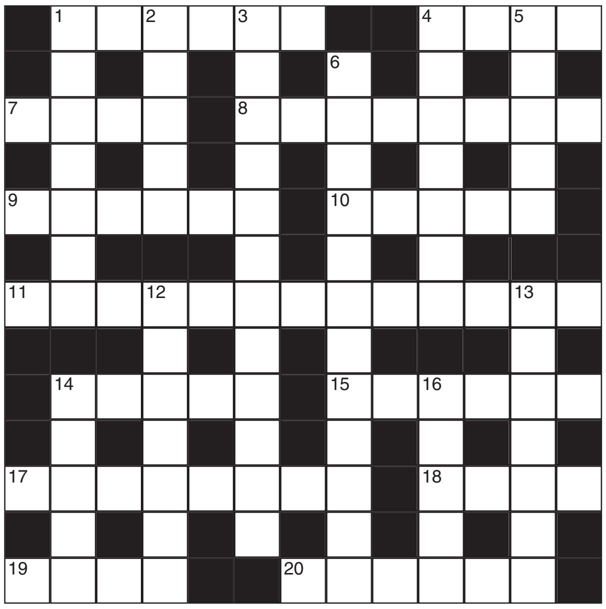
Kakuro No 3319



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9077



Across
1 Outward flow (6)
4 Immense (4)
7 Violent disturbance (4)
8 Sombre, mournful (8)
9 Capital of Albania (6)
10 Destroy; disable (5)
11 State of highest happiness (7,6)
14 Theatre attendant (5)
15 Drool (6)
17 Lively Spanish dance (8)
18 Cut with scissors (4)
19 White Greek cheese (4)
20 Revoke (a law) (6)

Down
1 Imposing building (7)
2 Ruling on Islamic law (5)
3 Not complimentary (12)
4 Ornamental plant (7)
5 Not taut; loose (5)
6 Be aware of the essential facts (4,3,5)
12 Spiny egg-laying mammal (7)
13 Hebrew prophet (7)
14 Habitual practice (5)
16 Passage between seats (5)

Solution to Crossword 9076



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Similar ... but different (63)

When the opponents bid and support a suit, examine your holding in that suit and work out partner's likely holding. Those holdings should make a huge difference to your bidding strategy.

Contrast North's holding in East-West's bid-and-supported spades on Deal One and Deal Two.

Deal One
Dealer N

North: ♠ QJ ♥ 6432 ♦ 64 ♣ AKJ93
West: ♠ 9742 ♥ QJ ♦ AJ1072 ♣ 65
East: ♠ AK863 ♥ 85 ♦ K9 ♣ Q872
South: ♠ 105 ♥ AK1097 ♦ Q853 ♣ 104

S	W	N	E
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♠ (1)	Pass(2)	Pass
Pass	End		

(1) Raising pre-emptively to the (nine-card) level of the fit.
(2) The ♠ QJ doubleton spade holding could hardly be worse. Three likely wasted points, and the wrong number of cards (partner probably has a doubleton too).

South cashed ♥ AK v East's 3♠, switching at trick three to ♣10. North won ♣K, cashed ♣A and led a third club, South ruffing with ♠10. One down — nice defence.

Had North failed to appreciate the declining value of her hand and bid 4♥, West would have led ♠9, East winning ♠AK and switching to ♦K-then-♦9. West would win and lead a third diamond, East overruffing dummy. Two down.

Deal Two
Dealer N

North: ♠ 10752 ♥ QJ32 ♦ - ♣ AKJ93
West: ♠ QJ94 ♥ 86 ♦ AJ1072 ♣ 65
East: ♠ AK863 ♥ 4 ♦ K94 ♣ Q872
South: ♠ - ♥ AK10975 ♦ Q8653 ♣ 104

S	W	N	E
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♠	6♥ (1)	End

(1) Wow — what a hand North suddenly has. Four-card heart support with the upgraded "quacks", a lovely diamond void, and, most wonderful of all, four low spades.

Four low spades is the most magical holding, given the opponents have advertised nine spades. Partner is void; the opposing ten high-card points in spades will take no tricks in defence to a heart contract. Only 30 of the 40 high-card points in the pack are in play — North-South are playing with what is known as a "30-point pack".

West leads a hopeful ♠Q v 6♥. Nothing matters, for life is sweet. You can ruff, draw trumps in two rounds and run ♣10, not minding that it loses to East's ♣Q.

You win East's return and can cash four club winners and cross-ruff. Your 12 tricks comprise eight hearts (effectively including two diamond ruffs in dummy) and four clubs. Slam made with only 20 high-card points — effectively 15 as ♥QJ (given the 2-1 split in hearts) and ♦Q were de trôt.

Look out for those 30-point packs — they're pretty fun.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

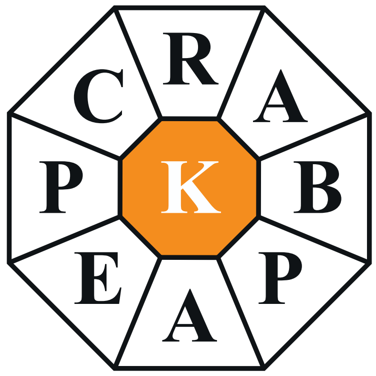
Brain Trainer

EASY 51 → x 2 → – 7 → 60% OF IT → – 12 → ÷ 3 → – 9 → SQUARE IT → + 7 → x 2 → ANSWER

MEDIUM 102 → + 72 → + ½ OF IT → + 97 → x 2 → + 48 → ¾ OF IT → – 99 → ½ OF IT → + 77 → ANSWER

HARDER 133 → x 8 → + ½ OF IT → + 766 → + ½ OF IT → + 358 → x 2 → – 436 → ½ OF IT → – 889 → ANSWER

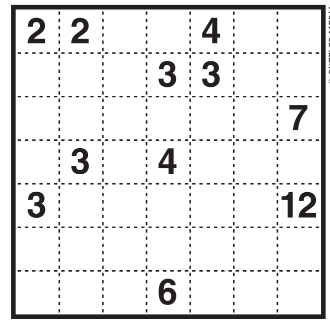
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 17 words, average; 23, good; 27, very good; 31, excellent

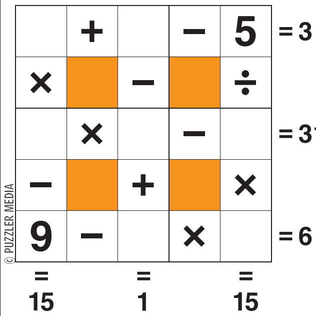
Yesterday's answers
although, alto, auto, gaol, ghoul, gloat, goal, goat, goth, gout, halo, holt, hough, loath, loth, lough, lout, oath, ought, thou, though, toga, tolu, tough

Cell Blocks No 4644



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

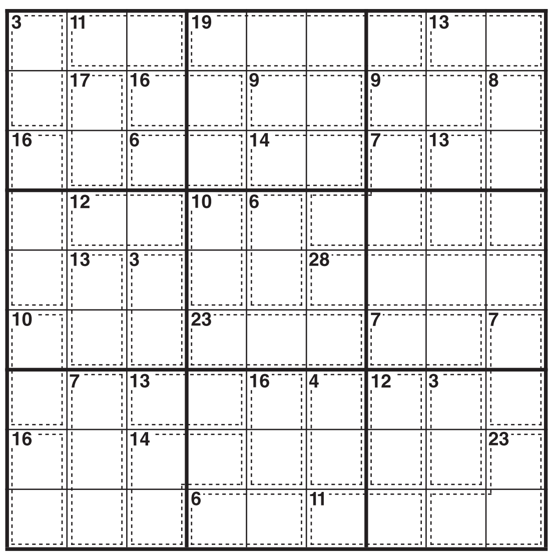
Set Square No 3322



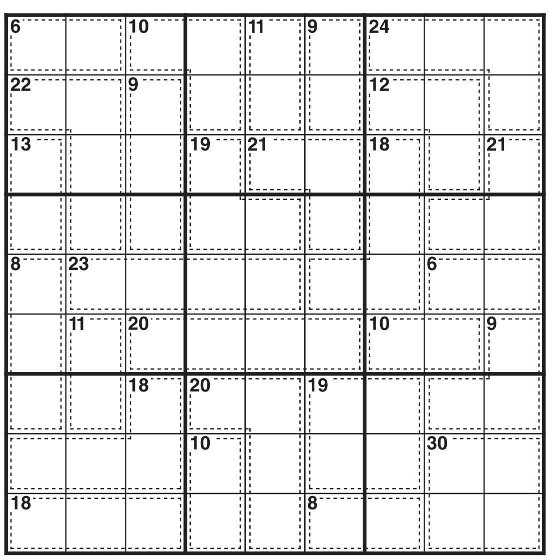
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Moderate No 8619



Killer Deadly No 8620

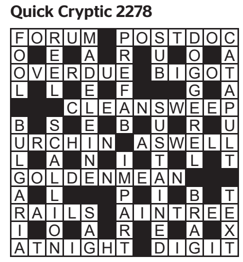


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

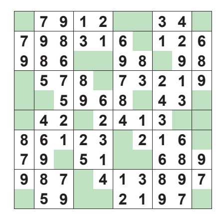
Quick Cryptic 2278



Codeword 4760



Kakuro 3318

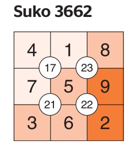


Sudoku 13,666

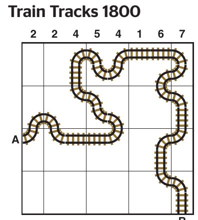
5	1	7	9	6	2	8	4	3
9	6	3	5	4	8	7	1	2
4	8	2	3	1	7	5	6	9
3	9	5	8	7	4	1	2	6
8	2	1	6	9	5	4	3	7
6	7	4	2	3	1	9	8	5
2	4	9	1	5	6	3	7	8
7	3	6	4	8	9	2	5	1
1	5	8	7	2	3	6	9	4

Quintagram
1 Frees
2 Garden
3 Artemis
4 Forsyth
5 Raffles

Suko 3662



Train Tracks 1800

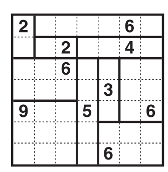


Brain Trainer
Easy 86; Medium 314; Harder 2,794

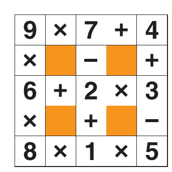
Sudoku 13,667

8	6	5	2	4	9	1	7	3
9	4	7	8	3	1	2	6	5
3	1	2	6	5	7	4	9	8
5	2	4	3	1	6	9	8	7
6	7	9	5	8	2	3	4	1
1	3	8	9	7	4	5	2	6
7	5	6	4	2	3	8	1	9
2	9	3	1	6	8	7	5	4
4	8	1	7	9	5	6	3	2

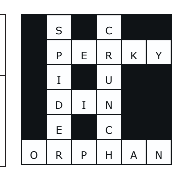
Cell Blocks 4643



Set Square 3321



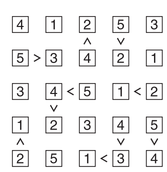
Lexica 6637



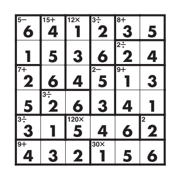
Sudoku 13,668

9	2	4	6	1	8	7	5	3
5	6	1	4	3	7	9	8	2
7	8	3	9	5	2	1	6	4
6	4	8	1	2	5	3	7	9
1	3	5	7	8	9	4	2	6
2	9	7	3	6	4	8	1	5
4	1	6	5	7	3	2	9	8
3	7	2	8	9	6	5	4	1
8	5	9	2	4	1	6	3	7

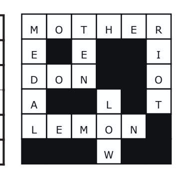
Futoshiki 4359



KenKen 5752



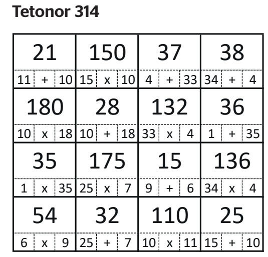
Lexica 6638



Killer 8617

7	6	9	4	3	8	1	2	5
2	3	4	1	7	5	6	9	8
8	1	5	2	6	9	3	7	4
3	4	2	6	8	1	9	5	7
5	7	8	9	4	3	2	1	6
6	9	1	5	2	7	8	4	3
1	5	3	7	9	6	4	8	2
4	8	7	3	1	2	5	6	9
9	2	6	8	5	4	7	3	1

Tetonor 314



Word watch
Brownout (c) A dimming of electric lighting in a city (*Collins*)
Yapp (b) A type of book binding (*Chambers*)
Requinto (a) A small guitar tuned a fifth higher than a standard guitar (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move
After 1 cxb3! Rd8 the simple 2 Rc1! allows White to retain the piece, eg 2 ... Qg6+ 3 Qe4. With two bishops against a rook White will win easily

Killer 8618

5	3	6	7	9	4	1	2	8
8	9	2	1	6	5	4	7	3
1	7	4	8	3	2	5	9	6
7	1	5	4	2	3	8	6	9
6	4	3	9	7	8	2	1	5
2	8	9	6	5	1	3	4	7
4	6	8	3	1	7	9	5	2
9	5	1	2	8	6	7	3	4
3	2	7	5	4	9	6	8	1

Quiz
1 Heart **2** Fidel Castro **3** Chancellor of the exchequer **4** Prussia **5** John F Kennedy **6** David Hockney **7** Michael French **8** Toni Morrison **9** Wolfsburg **10** Gamma-ray burst **11** Bottega Venata **12** Dita Parlo **13** Castling **14** Athletics. Swimming is second **15** Nadiya Hussain

THE TIMES

02.12.22

MindGames

Word watch
David Parfitt

Brownout
a The centre of the forehead
b The cancellation of a sports fixture owing to mud
c A dimming of electric lighting in a city

Yapp
a A web-based telephone service
b A type of book binding
c A pampered dog owned by young professionals

Requinto
a A small guitar
b The five of diamonds
c A wild pony

Answers on page 19

Sudoku

Mild No 13,669

8			3				5	
5	7			8	1			4
	1	4						
			2				7	
1	9			7			6	
		5			6			8
			5			4		
3	2			4		6	8	
	5			6			9	2

Difficult No 13,670

					8		7	
			7	2				
				1	5	9		8
	1						4	2
	8	4				1		3
7		9						
		6		7				1
1			5					9
		3	6	9		2	8	

Fiendish No 13,671

	4						7	
						5		2
1	9		4				6	
		3						
	6	1	2	8				
9				6		2		
		9		7	3			
2				1		6		7
	1		8			4		

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Which organ serves as a pump to circulate the blood?

2 Which father of the Cuban Revolution ruled his country for 47 years, from 1959 to 2006?

3 Which Great Office of State is second in the ministerial ranking, behind the prime minister?

4 Borussia is the Latin name for which former German state, whose capital before unification was Berlin?

5 In 1960, who became the youngest person to be elected US president?

6 Who painted *The Room, Manchester Street* (1967) and *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy* (1970-71)?



ALAMY

15

7 Which actor played David Wicks in *EastEnders* and Nick Jordan in *Casualty* and *Holby City*?

8 *Dreaming Emmett* (1986) is which Nobel-winning African-American writer's first full-length play?

9 In May 1938, Hitler laid the cornerstone for the Volkswagen factory in which German city?

10 Recently lighting up a distant galaxy, the "boat" (brightest of all time) is the brightest ever what?

11 Which Italian fashion house launched the quarterly digital journal *Issue* in 2021?

12 Which German film actress played Juliette in *L'Atalante* (1934) and Elsa in *La Grande Illusion* (1937)?

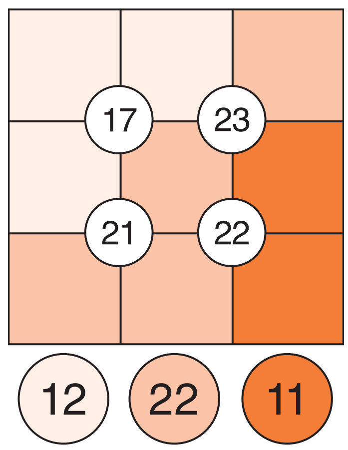
13 Which special chess move is a descendant of the "king's leap" in the medieval game?

14 In which summer Olympic sport are the most medals awarded?

15 Which baker is pictured?

Answers on page 19

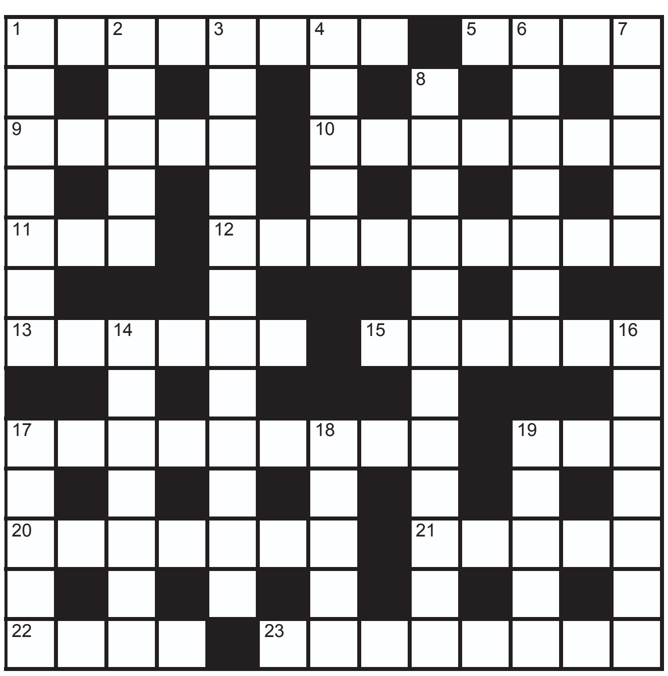
Suko
No 3662



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

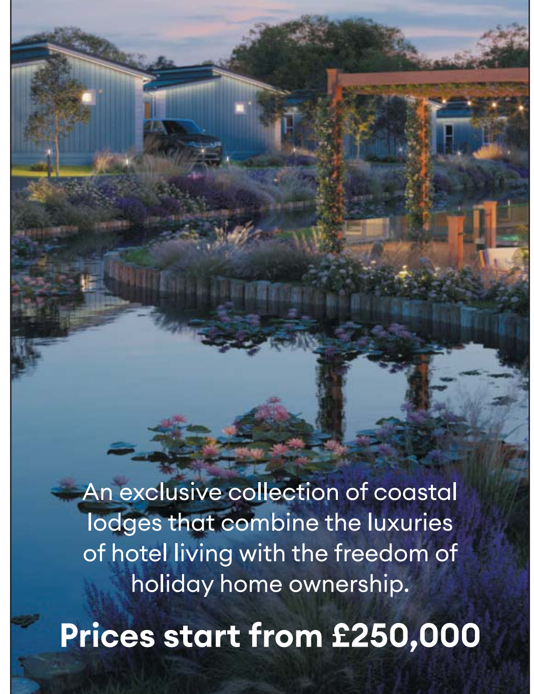
The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2279 by Izetti



Across
1 Top conurbation accommodating a maximum number? (8)
5 Good paper needed to wrap one present (4)
9 Style large or small-scale reproduction (5)
10 A rum ace, funny clown (7)
11 Celebrity not entirely graceful (3)
12 Final messages needing money spent by Somerset city (9)
13 Modest or awfully rude, me? (6)
15 Certainly at home with something to be done (6)
17 Deliverer, first to call on Italian gentleman (9)
19 Some insolent note (3)
20 One knight under emotional strain and passionate (7)
21 Rowed with a leftie — nothing to begin with (5)
22 Get away from Eastern mischief-maker, retreating (4)
23 Communicated something confused and not up to date? (8)*

Down
1 Order company doctor to get worker in? (7)
2 Army minister's accommodation attended by soldiers (5)
3 Americans African lions mauled (12)
4 Island's rocky outcrop spanning one mile (5)
6 I feel cold, not half, somehow? I'm frozen! (3,4)
7 Support some noncompliant Russians (5)
8 Depict fashionable men at weddings where receptions are held (7,5)
14 Mum has eaten horrible animal (7)
16 Deceived daughter escaped (7)
17 Head cook entertaining India's leader (5)
18 French resort invaded by English relation (5)
19 Quiet sort of football game at first bringing resigned gesture (5)

Yesterday's solution on page 19

LUXURY LODGES
UNWIND AND DISCOVER
Stunning spaces in beautiful places


LUXURY LODGES FOR SALE IN CORNWALL & WEST WALES
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION
AS SEEN ON TV
0808 258 9243
residences.luxurylodges.com/times